



# Children and Young People's Plan 2021- 2023

## Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee

*Working together to Improve  
the lives of children and young people across Donegal.*

## Acknowledgements

Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee would like to thank the children, young people, parents, service providers and CYPSC partner agencies who participated in consultation activities, made submissions, supplied information, gave feedback and contributed in so many ways to the development of the Children and Young People Plan 2021-2023.

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Your support and commitment to this process, at a very difficult time, has been invaluable. Thank You.

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## Foreword

As Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of Donegal Children & Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC), we are delighted to present the Donegal Children and Young People's Plan 2021-2023 (CYPP). It is a credit to all members of the CYPSC who helped to develop the plan and who will also play a key role in its' implementation. Our new CYPP builds on the fantastic work carried out in the past few years and sets a challenging level of ambition for Donegal CYPSC in the coming period.

Our CYPP 2018 to 2020 was a resounding success thanks largely to the sterling activities of the sub committees ably co-ordinated by an experienced group of chairpersons and our CYPSC co-ordinator. The 'Achievements to Date' section of this new CYPP is a testament to the work of Donegal CYPSC. The various projects listed demonstrate clearly how young people and their families have benefitted from a host of interventions. A spirit of collaboration, partnership and inclusivity permeates the activities within the various projects with a strong focus on reaching those who are most vulnerable. In this regard this inspires confidence in Donegal CYPSC as a fulcrum for trusting co-operative interagency relationships and results. Implementation of the CYPP 2018-2020 was affected greatly by the onset of COVID 19 but the evidence is clear that activities adapted well despite the challenges. Key resources were also directed to those most negatively impacted by the pandemic. Well done to all involved and we hope we can formally celebrate the achievements at some point as COVID restrictions are lifted.

As we look to the next period and in preparation for the CYPP 2021 – 2023, it was evident that Donegal CYPSC and all the various sub committees, were anxious to challenge ourselves once more and to set ambitious but achievable actions and targets for the new plan period. We have a very strong record of collaborative working across all agencies represented on Donegal CYPSC, including statutory and community and voluntary sectors. This is a great base to be starting from. We are collectively invested in ensuring that there is real and felt positive change for children and young people at the close of this CYPP in 2023.

The level of public and interagency consultation in the development of this CYPP is hugely impressive with the lived experience of young people and their carers placed centre-stage. The Needs Analysis tool used is incredibly comprehensive. The information can inform CYPSC members and CYPP readers of the status of children and young people in Donegal making it an extremely important asset for all Donegal service providers in terms of supporting their comprehension of the lives of children and young people in the county. The actions identified are fully informed and prioritised as per the needs analysis and this will make the activities of the subcommittees even more meaningful to the lives of our children, young people and their families.

As our last CYPP had to adapt to the fallout of the pandemic our new plan will have to show similar agility to emerging need. For example, we have a real threat emerging from the Mica crisis in our county which threatens to increase levels of homelessness and creates a need for cross-agency support for the thousands of children, young people and their families who find themselves affected by this situation.

We want to acknowledge the support and assistance provided to Donegal CYPSC by Dr. Celia Keneghan in the preparation and development of CYPP 2021 – 2023. Dr. Keneghan’s insight, experience and understanding of the issues was a huge asset to us in this work and we believe that our new plan demonstrates an extensive, inclusive development process. We also want to acknowledge the instrumental role which Anne Timony Meehan (Donegal CYPSC Co-ordinator) plays in all matters relating to Donegal CYPSC, not alone guiding us through the new plan process but in all the work we do.

The ultimate test of our Plan will be how it has contributed to ‘Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures’ for our children and young people. Let us therefore ensure that we continue to listen to the voices of our children and young people and work collaboratively with parents and carers in all our actions towards achieving the goals outlined in this Plan. This will assist greatly in making County Donegal a better place where our Children can happily grow up and reach their full potential in life.



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Gerry Hone  
Area Manager, Tusla  
Chairperson – Donegal CYPSC



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Liam Ward  
Director of Community Development and Planning, Donegal County Council  
Vice Chairperson – Donegal CYPSC

List of Acronyms	
<b>BOBF</b>	Better Outcomes, Better Futures
<b>CAMHS</b>	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
<b>CAWT</b>	Co-operation and Working Together
<b>C&amp;V</b>	Community and Voluntary Sector
<b>CYPP</b>	Children and Young People's Plan
<b>CYPSC</b>	Children and Young People's Services Committee
<b>DCC</b>	Donegal County Council
<b>DCCC</b>	Donegal County Childcare Committee
<b>DCYA</b>	Dept. Of Children and Youth Affairs ( <i>pre 27 June 2020</i> )
<b>DCDEI</b>	Dept. of Children, Disability, Equality and Integration ( <i>post 27 June 2020</i> )
<b>DEIS</b>	Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools
<b>DE</b>	Dept. Of Education
<b>DLDC</b>	Donegal Local Development Company
<b>DOH</b>	Dept. Of Health
<b>DSPCRDI</b>	Dept. Of Social Protection, Community and Rural Development and the islands
<b>DTP</b>	Donegal Traveller Project
<b>DYC</b>	Donegal Youth Council
<b>DYS</b>	Donegal Youth Service
<b>ECCE</b>	Early Childhood Care and Education
<b>ERNACT</b>	European Regions Network for the Application of Communications Technology
<b>ESL</b>	Early School Leaving
<b>ETB</b>	Education and Training Board
<b>FRC</b>	Family Resource Centre
<b>HBSC</b>	Health Behaviours in School Aged Children, NUIG
<b>HEA</b>	Higher Education Authority
<b>HI</b>	Healthy Ireland
<b>HIQA</b>	Health Information and Quality Authority
<b>HSE</b>	Health Service Executive
<b>IDP</b>	Inishowen Development Partnership
<b>IPPN</b>	Irish Primary Principals' Network
<b>IYJS</b>	Irish Youth Justice Service
<b>LA</b>	Local Authority
<b>LCDC</b>	Local Community Development Committee
<b>LDC</b>	Local Development Company
<b>LECP</b>	Local Economic and Community Plan
<b>LYIT</b>	Letterkenny Institute of Technology
<b>MACE</b>	Multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences
<b>NAPD</b>	National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals
<b>NCS</b>	National Childcare Scheme
<b>NEPS</b>	National Educational Psychological Service
<b>NOSP</b>	National Office for Suicide Prevention
<b>NWRDATF</b>	North West Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force
<b>PEI</b>	Prevention and Early Intervention
<b>PPFS</b>	Prevention Partnership and Family Support
<b>PPN</b>	Public Participation Network
<b>PS</b>	Probation Service
<b>SCP</b>	School Completion Programme
<b>SICAP</b>	Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme
<b>SONC</b>	State of our Nation's Children
<b>TESS</b>	Tusla Education Support Service
<b>Tusla</b>	Tusla Child and Family Agency

## Section 1: Introduction

The central purpose of the Donegal Children and Young Peoples Services Committee (CYPSC) is to provide strategic direction and leadership to ensure effective interagency co-operation and collaboration to achieve the best outcomes for all children and young people in County Donegal. Donegal CYPSC acts as the structure whereby services can work together in a systematic manner to achieve shared goals bridging national policy with local provision. Donegal CYPSC works towards the five national outcomes for children and young people in Ireland. These are that children and young people

1. **Are active and healthy, with positive physical and mental wellbeing**
2. **Are achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development**
3. **Are safe and protected from harm**
4. **Have economic security and opportunity**
5. **Are connected, respected and contributing to their world**

Donegal CYPSC is the key vehicle for interagency working for children and young people in the age range 0-24 year (inclusive), reflecting the different developmental phases and associated needs and challenges of each stage of childhood, youth and extending into early adulthood. The work of Donegal CYPSC adheres to the concept of progressive universalism and spans policy areas and service provision, from the universal to targeted services and supports for children and young people.

## Background to Children and Young People's Services Committees

### Children and Young People's Services Committees in Ireland - Policy Context

The Department of Children, Disability, Equality and Integration (formerly Dept. of Children and Youth Affairs) established the Children and Young People's Services Committees (formerly Children's Services Committees) in 2007 with the purpose of improving outcomes for children and families at local and community level. Since then, CYPSC have been identified as a key structure by Government to plan and co-ordinate services for children and young people, aged 0 – 24 years, in every county in Ireland.

CYPSC bring together a diverse group of agencies across the statutory, community and voluntary sectors in local county areas to engage in joint planning of services for children and young people. All major organisations and agencies working locally on behalf of children and young people are represented. These committees work to improve the lives of children, young people and families at local and community level through integrated planning and improved service delivery.



Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, 2014 – 2020 underscores the necessity of interagency working and tasks Children and Young People's Services Committees with a key role in this regard. The Shared Vision Next Steps 2019-24 strategy document for CYPSC was published by The Department of Children, Disability, Equality and Integration (formerly Dept. of Children and Youth Affairs) in 2019.

Donegal Children's Services Committee (CSC) was one of the four pilot sites established in 2007. Donegal Children's Services Committee later became the Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) when the remit expanded from a focus on 0 to 18 years to 0 to 24 years. Donegal CYPSC members are a wide range of highly committed statutory and community / voluntary agencies involved in the delivery of services to children and families in Donegal. Following a review of the plan for 2018 – 2020, the 'Donegal Children and Young People's Plan 2021-2023' builds on the successes achieved, (*pages 13 to 29*) continuing and expanding areas of work, while also embracing additional areas of inter-agency co-operation and collaboration in response to changing local needs and shared learning with other CYPSC.

Donegal CYPSC has sought to support overarching initiatives which impact on how services work with children, young people and their families. Donegal CYPSC members are also actively involved in other local development planning such as the Donegal Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) thereby ensuring that Donegal CYPSC priorities are aligned with and enhanced by relevant local developments.

The participation of children and young people is fundamental to Donegal CYPSC and an integral part of the development of this Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). This is manifested through co-operative work with Donegal Youth Council managed by Foróige and additional activities undertaken by Donegal CYPSC and its members, for example, Youth Surveys and Consultation activities, Foróige Youth Projects and Services including Donegal Youth Voices, Donegal Youth Services Projects, Young Carers and Breakout LGBTIQ+ Services. CYPSC Donegal promotes inclusion for children and young people with a disability and their parents and engages in awareness raising activities across CYPSC. The Disability Inclusion working group established in 2019, joined with the Economic Wellbeing Subcommittee to form the Economic Wellbeing and Disability Equality Subcommittee in 2020. Addressing health inequalities and ensuring that programmes delivered in partnership with CYPSC organisations consider the impact of the programme on the health inequality gap is also a key focus for CYPSC Donegal.

Donegal CYPSC operates in the context of the many cross border aspects of life in Donegal. CYPSC keeps abreast of developments in relation to Brexit to determine any new challenges or opportunities for children and families and will incorporate this ongoing work into the monitoring, evaluation and review of their plan.

## Who we are?

NAME	TITLE / ROLE	ORGANISATION
<i>Gerry Hone CYPSC Chair</i>	<i>Area Manager</i>	<i>TUSLA Child and Family Agency (Tusla)</i>
<i>Liam Ward CYPSC Vice Chair Chair Economic Wellbeing/ Chair Change Management Subcommittee</i>	<i>Director of Services, Community Development and Planning</i>	<i>Donegal County Council (DCC) Local Community Development Committee</i>
<i>Amanda Doyle</i>	<i>General Manager Primary Care</i>	<i>Health Service Executive (HSE)</i>
<i>Siobhan Mollahan Joint Chair Safe and Secure Subcommittee</i>	<i>Inspector</i>	<i>An Garda Síochána</i>
<i>Janique Burden Joint Chair Safe and Secure Subcommittee</i>	<i>Principal Social Worker, Children in Care</i>	<i>TUSLA Child and Family Agency (Tusla)</i>
<i>Martin Gallen Chair Educational and Learning subcommittee</i>	<i>Senior Educational Psychologist</i>	<i>Donegal Education Training Board</i>
<i>Susan Mc Loughlin Interim Chair Health and Wellbeing Subcommittee</i>	<i>Manager</i>	<i>Foróige</i>
<i>Laura Mc Kitterick</i>	<i>Clinical Manager</i>	<i>Jigsaw Donegal</i>
<i>Shauna Mc Clenaghan Parent Hub Donegal</i>	<i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	<i>Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP) Local Community Development Committee</i>
<i>Anne Mc Hugh</i>	<i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	<i>Donegal Education Training Board Local Community Development Committee</i>
<i>John Mc Guinness</i>	<i>Representative</i>	<i>National Association Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD)</i>
<i>Trish Mc Laughlin Health and Wellbeing and Parent Hub Donegal</i>	<i>Manager</i>	<i>Donegal Child Care Committee (DCCC)</i>
<i>Padraic Fingleton</i>	<i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	<i>Donegal Local Development Company (DLDC)</i>
<i>Martina Doyle</i>	<i>Representative</i>	<i>Family Resource Centre Network</i>
<i>Joe English</i>	<i>Director of Mathematics</i>	<i>Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT)</i>
<i>Martina Ni Chanain Change Management Subcommittee</i>	<i>Language Development Officer</i>	<i>Údarás na Gaeltachta</i>
<i>Pauric Cannon</i>	<i>Representative</i>	<i>Irish Primary Principals Network (IPPN)</i>
<i>Deirdre Mc Hugh</i>	<i>Educational Psychologist</i>	<i>National Education Psychological Service (NEPS)</i>
<i>Anne Duke Safe and Secure Subcommittee</i>	<i>Manager</i>	<i>Probation Service</i>
<i>Gina Grant Economic Well-being/ Disability Equality Subcommitte</i>	<i>Representative</i>	<i>Public Participation Network (PPN) Donegal Down Syndrome Association</i>
<i>Mary Walker Callaghan Parent Support Champions</i>	<i>Representative</i>	<i>Lifestart Services Services CLG Parenting Champions</i>
<i>Donna Butler Chair Parent Hub Donegal</i>	<i>Manager</i>	<i>Families Matter Parent Hub</i>
<i>Eadaoin Nic Conn Uladh</i>	<i>Young Adult Representative</i>	<i>Donegal Youth Council former member and Youth Leader</i>

## Governance and Accountability

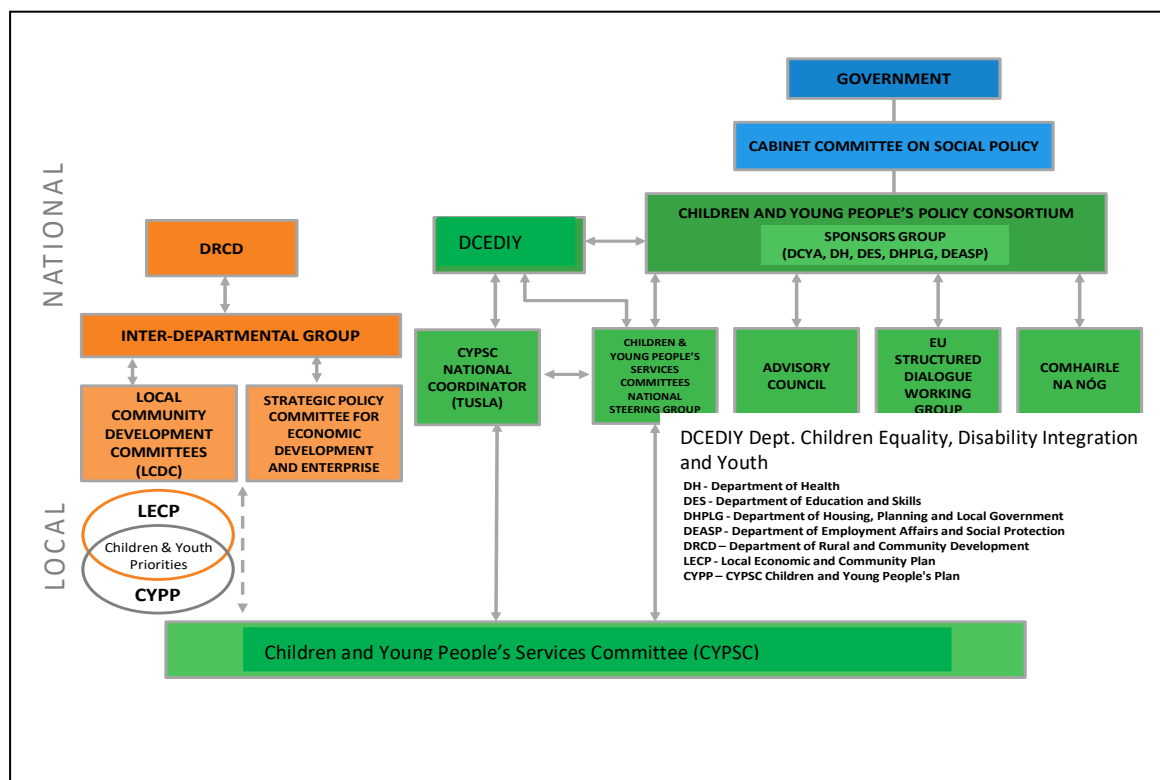


Figure 1

Subcommittees are aligned to the 5 National Outcomes for Children and Young People specifically:

### Outcome 1: Active and healthy, Physical and Mental Well-being

- Health and Well-being Subcommittee (Interim Chair Susan McLaughlin, Foróige)

### Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in Learning and Development

- Education and Learning Subcommittee (Chair Martin Gallen, Donegal ETB)

### Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

- Safe and Secure Subcommittee (Chair Siobhan Mollahan, An Garda Síochána and Janique Burden, Tusla)

### Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity

- Economic Well-being and Disability Equality Subcommittee (Chair Liam Ward, Donegal County Council)<sup>1</sup>

### Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing

A young adult representative joined CYPSC in September 2020. Donegal CYPSC will establish a Youth Participation Subcommittee as part of the Children and Young People's Plan 2021-2023.

Donegal CYPSC has developed collaborative relationships with structures such as the Donegal ETB Youth work Subcommittee, Donegal Youth Council, Youth work organisations and the Coordinator sits on various Advisory Committees to progress Youth participation.

### Transformational Goals

- Change Management Subcommittee (Chair Liam Ward, Donegal County Council)
- Parent Hub Donegal from Sept 2020 (Chair Donna Butler, Families Matter)

<sup>1</sup> In 2019 the Disability Inclusion working group joined with the Economic Wellbeing Subcommittee to become the Economic Wellbeing and Disability Equality Subcommittee

## Donegal CYPSC Review and Achievements 2018-2020 per National Outcomes:

### **National Outcome 1: Active and Healthy, physical and mental wellbeing.**

#### **Health and Wellbeing Subcommittee:**

#### **Be Healthy Be Happy: 2018/9 Funded by Healthy Ireland, Led by Foróige**

The Health and Well Being programme “Be Healthy Be Happy” was rolled out to young people from across the county that wouldn't normally have this youth work service available to them. In Healthy Ireland Round 1, a Project Worker was employed to facilitate the programme and train volunteers to deliver the programme ensuring a legacy of training facilitators for the future. In total, 200 young people engaged in the programme (target was 100) with 26 people receiving facilitator training instead of the targeted 10. During Healthy Ireland Round 2 we built on this success, again exceeding our target with 150 young people taking part. 47 young people took part in a “Be Healthy Be Happy” residential weekend. This reinforced the learning through engaging young people in very practical ways of keeping healthy in a holistic sense. While the residential was the most challenging aspect of the project, individual needs identified on the residential allowed supports to be put in place for young people returning home.

#### **Fitness Festival: 2020 Funded by Healthy Ireland, Led by Foróige**

COVID19 restrictions meant that the Fitness Festival (FitFest) had to be completely remodelled. Many young people reported feeling isolated and lonely with their mental health negatively impacted during lockdown. Our aim was to reconnect them with their peers and the Foróige staff that they would normally meet with on a regular basis for youth work engagement. The first part was the official launch of the FitFest along with a 5km walk. Our target of engaging up to 150 young people was exceeded on day one in June with 207 young people and 7 babies taking part from all corners of county Donegal. Young people reported that they really enjoyed meeting up with their friends albeit at a social distance and getting out into the open again after lockdown. At the end of July “Tunes and Chats” continued the theme of reconnecting young people through a social gathering with young people's own take on the theme. Finally, we wrapped up our FitFest with an art project with inspiring photos, images from young people across the county that represents hope in their lives as we journey through the pandemic.

#### **Getting the Basics Right / Fun Moves: 2018/9 Funded by Healthy Ireland, Led by Donegal Sports Partnership**

Physical Activity and Sport: ‘Fun Moves’ was a follow-on programme from the ‘Getting the Basics Right, Fundamental Movements for Children’ programme led by Donegal Sports Partnership, in disadvantaged areas and Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS). This initiative provided a dedicated children’s physical activity programme with interventions that delivered key physical

literacy and fundamental movement skills to children to provide a positive start in sport and physical activity. Evidence based programme design was followed by 8-week intervention programmes with an emphasis on fun to develop the key literacy movements skills of 80 children, ages 3 to 7 years per year, targeting both preschool and community settings across three main core areas, stability, object control and locomotion skills. The training programme for local community sports leaders, parents and teachers developed a local skills base and ensured a consistency of approach across all community sites.

**Motivate, Educate, Exercise Together (MEET) Programme: 2018/19 funded by the Healthy Ireland, Led by Letterkenny Youth and Family Services (LYFS)**

The Motivate, Educate, Exercise Together (MEET) Programme Initiative is a community-based nutrition and activity programme targeting the whole family which addresses childhood obesity and unhealthy lifestyles through a whole family approach. Training resources were developed and 12 community facilitators trained to deliver MEET across 5 primary care areas in Donegal. Two programmes specifically targeted young men in the age category 16 to 25 years and a school based nutrition programme was delivered in 5 Primary Schools. 11 organisations were involved in this collaborative project with 244 participants, parents, children and young men. The programme resulted in a healthier lifestyle for the whole family unit with improved cooking skills and healthy food options, improved physical wellbeing, increased self-confidence and self-esteem, increased activity levels and a reduction in sedentary lifestyles. Participants gained an increased awareness of healthy food choices, had an increased level of physical activity with improved lifestyle behaviours and a maintained reduction in Body Mass Index (BMI) and body weight. Challenges faced were the cost of community kitchens for the cooking classes and the difficulty in recruiting men onto the programme.

**School transitions programme: 2018-2020 funded by the Healthy Ireland, Led by Letterkenny Youth and Family Services (LYFS)**

Following a piece of local research into the provision of school transition programmes from primary to post primary school, it became clear that while community based organisations were providing support to 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils in some areas of the county, schools employed a variety of approaches to schools transitioning and there was a lack of a co-ordinated, consistent programme for use in and out of school settings. Funded by the Healthy Ireland Initiative, the lead agency, Letterkenny Youth and Family Services (LYFS), brought 12 organisations together to develop a co-ordinated programme that would be available to all schools. The resulting 'Big Fish Little Fish School Transition Programme' is a resource with over 50 activities supporting emotional social and practical skills required for transitioning from national school to second level school and is available for use across the county. This programme was delivered to 250 children in 2019. Due to COVID19 restrictions a planned

Training Workshop targeting teachers, resource assistants, youth workers and those involved in informal educational environments such as after school services has had to be postponed.

**Young people who identify as LGBTIQ+: Breakout: 2018-2020** Funded by Healthy Ireland and BOBF, Led by Donegal Youth Services (DYS)

BreakOut is a project for LGBTIQ+ young people aged 12-30, which works towards creating an environment where LGBTIQ+ young people are treated on equal terms as all other young people. The BreakOut project established additional peer support groups on an outreach basis in Glenties and Moville, engaging 121 young people. Participants took part in workshops dealing with relevant topics such as Mental health, Sexual health and consent, Positive relationships and Internet safety. LGBTIQ+ training sessions were also delivered countywide to school staff and students, youth organisations, corporate businesses and the community and voluntary sector in relation to best practice supporting LGBTIQ+ young people. The project has had multiple impacts, captured by one young person as follows: "BreakOut is a safe space for people to express their individuality". Experiences that impacted young people's self-acceptance and confidence included: participation in Dublin Pride "an experience of a lifetime, where you can fly your flag and be yourself in an atmosphere of love, pride and acceptance of one another" and attending the Belong To 'Leadership Training'. Individual member experiences included: writing an article for the national Gay Community News (GCN) magazine highlighting the issues faced by young LGBTIQ+ young people in Donegal; participation on the LGBTIQ+ Youth Strategy review youth advisory panel; media interviews in the national campaign 'Stand Up'; keynote speaking at the launch of the National School Climate Survey and Belong To's Rainbow Ball. BreakOut reports that for the majority of young people that attend the weekly peer groups, it's the only safe space where they can be themselves each week.

**Young People who have a significant Caring role: 2018-2020** Funded by Healthy Ireland and BOBF

The Young Carers Project was set up in Letterkenny to respond to locally identified needs of young people in our communities who have a significant caring role in their family. This funding enabled outreach work and peer support groups to be established in Moville and Donegal town. The project offers one-to-one and group support to all its members. The group took part in team building activities, day trips, art workshops, training sessions and the Young Carers Ireland Annual respite break in Carlingford Adventure Centre in June 2019. During 2018/9 the project held regular meetings and had over 50 members engaged with the project throughout the year. Two of the young carers accompanied by their youth workers travelled to the EU Parliament in Brussels for the EU informal Young Carers meeting in September 2019. The Donegal Young Carers Healthy Ireland Fit-4-Life programme ran weekly with the group taking part in physical activity and developing healthy eating habits and lifestyles. The group had a steady footfall of approximately 20 young people each week.

## **Initiatives to develop respect and understanding across cultures to support an inclusive Donegal: 2018-2020 Led by Donegal Travellers Project**

Services, stakeholders and practitioners across Donegal participated in targeted bespoke Intercultural Training initiatives and diversity events from 2018-2020, developing mutual respect and understanding across cultures including Traveller, Roma and Black Minority Ethnic (BME) communities. The participatory training promoted diversity and raised awareness of unconscious bias and prejudices, developing the skills to work from an intercultural perspective. This raised consciousness within organisations of the need to provide adequate culturally appropriate services for Traveller, Roma and Black Minority Ethnic (BME) children and young people, increased understanding of incidences of direct and indirect discrimination and awareness of Traveller and Roma history and culture. Over 300 practitioners, students and various stakeholders have participated in cultural competency training. Time and schedule constraints were a challenge for this action and due to the COVID19 pandemic all training in 2020 had to be postponed. The impact of this action is better engagement with local organisations and stakeholders around developing the capacity to address issues of racism and discrimination experienced by the Traveller, Roma and BME communities and highlights the importance of inclusive and targeted approaches.

## **National Outcome 2: Achieving Full Potential in Learning and Development**

### **Education and Learning Subcommittee**

The Education and Learning Subcommittee ran a number of initiatives led as appropriate by the Library Service, Lifestart Services, Donegal County Childcare Committee (DCCC), Donegal Education and Training Board (ETB) Donegal Local Development CLG. These initiatives:

- Promoted early literacy by working with early childhood care and education practitioners (ECCE), parents, guardians and children.
- Encouraged parents and ECCE practitioners to read to their children more regularly.
- Increased library membership and use with new members joining through the programme in partnership with Lifestart Services.
- Encouraged parents to sing nursery rhymes to their babies, supporting communication and language development, which lays the foundations for reading and writing later on.

**Bookworm Babies** promotes the importance of reading with young children to parents/guardians by encouraging families to join their local library, with automatic membership cards for new babies and members of their families who wish to join the library. The programme includes active promotion of library use and reading when Lifestart Services staff visit families. 271 new library cards issued to 'Bookworm Babies' members during 2018 and 2019 (126 in 2018, 145 in 2019); 5,635 library items issued to 'Bookworm Babies' members during 2018 and 2019 (2,639 in 2018, 2,995 in 2019).

**Babbling Babies nursery rhymes book** was launched in 2018. This multilingual book includes favourite nursery rhymes in a number of languages, to reflect the ethnic diversity of our community, and was presented to families of young children when joining the library. The aim of the book is to encourage language and reading development, and to promote the importance of reading to children. Due to popular demand an updated book (with additional languages such as Arabic and Urdu) was developed, printed and launched during 2019. 5,000 copies were printed and distributed in 2018 with a further 6,600 copies in 2019. The book was distributed through Lifestart Services, Donegal County Childcare Committee and the library network. Circa 40 parents, children, organisation representatives and local press attended each launch event. Donegal CYPSC, Creative Ireland and Lifestart Services provided funding for printing.

**Creating Lifelong Readers** works with Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) practitioners and parents on the importance of early language, reading, writing and play as a means of helping children to develop the lifelong skill and enjoyment of reading. Libraries have been working with Lifestart Services delivering this to parents and children in locations throughout Donegal, delivering rhyme-time sessions while promoting library membership. 12 Storytelling and rhyme sessions were hosted by the Library Service and Lifestart Services with parent and toddler groups during 2018 and 2019, with 282 participants both adults and children (135 in 2018 and 147 in 2019). Libraries also worked with Donegal County Childcare Committee on delivering a Creating Lifelong Readers programme to ECCE practitioners. Donegal County Childcare Committee and the Library Service facilitated 3 Storytelling and rhyme sessions during 2019 attended by 37 participants from 15 childcare facilities. Donegal CYPSC provided BOBF Funding for book packs in 2018 and story sacks in 2019 for distribution to childcare facilities and parent and toddler groups. Funding was also provided for the 'Books before screens' leaflet in 2019 and distributed as part of this initiative.

**Multimedia Workshops with Dr. Mary Roche promoting picture books and critical thinking** 50 early years educators participated in a workshop in April 2018 and 28 Parents participated in October 2018. Workshops focused on how picture books can benefit every parent or early educator who wishes to develop Critical Thinking, Oral Language and Meaning Making in their home or classroom. Participants learned how parents and early educators could use these amazing language and literacy resources at whole class, small group and individual level. This initiative encouraged language and reading development from an early age; encouraged fostering a love of reading amongst parents and early educators; promoted reading and the use of picture books, and development of critical thinking to early educators.

**Word Monsters Library Card** initiative started late 2019 and is a collaboration of the Library services with the Donegal County Childcare Committee targeting pre-school children and encourages families to join their local library, with automatic membership cards for preschool children and members of



their families. 80 new cards were issued to 'Word Monsters' members during 2019 with 32 items issued to 'Word Monsters' members during 2019. The '**Ready Readers**' card was also developed for children in early years of primary school with the intention to develop promotional programmes linked to this age-group.

**READ DL** is based on the worldwide 'One Book, One Community' project and involves the School Completion Programme (SCP) and Home School Community Liaison coordinators from Errigal College, Letterkenny, Educate Together National School, Donegal ETB Learning for Living, Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT) and Donegal Library Service and is funded by LYIT and the Donegal ETB. Events have included: a 500 word themed short story competition, local mystery readers visiting schools, storytelling workshops, creative writing, craft and animation workshops, table quizzes and drama workshops which take place around the county from January to April. A significant feature is that the closing ceremony each year is held in a community venue hosted by local school children who act as comperes and Master of Ceremony (MC) for the evening. Hundreds of children and young people from 77 schools across Donegal including 6 Youthreach centres and 10 Donegal Education and Training Board (ETB) Learning for Living Centres as well as individuals and families took part in what has become an incredibly successful community literacy initiative. A massive 2,285 books distributed across the county, with a further 100 books made available in all Donegal Libraries for community use with Booktastic events facilitated across the county and 192 entries to the 2019 creative writing competition. In 2020 READ DL celebrated 10 years of the project with a focus on poetry and the book and workbook 'Hopscotch in the Sky' by Lucinda Jacob. This was inspired by a partnership with the outgoing Laureate na nÓg and award-winning poet Sarah Crossan. This partnership offered the opportunity to 5 schools to undertake poetry workshops with local poet Denise Blake, approximately 120 children took part and wrote their own poems. These were to be read at the planned Closing Ceremony in March. Unfortunately, this did not take place due to COVID19 restrictions but the poems are now housed in the National Laureate na nÓg archive. In the absence of a Closing Ceremony a 15 min video was compiled for the READ DL website with contributions from Lucinda Jacob, Denise Blake, poetry and creative writing winners, artwork by schools etc. In 2020, over 2000 books were distributed to 53 Primary Schools, 15 Secondary Schools, 6 Youthreach Centres, all ETB Learning for Living Centres, 2 Community Groups and individuals/families. The figures illustrate the astonishing growth of the initiative since its inception 10 years ago when two schools took part and less than 100 books were needed.

**'Off the Shelf'** was developed through the Men's Sheds Project. With financial support from CYPSC, 12 Men's Sheds became involved in the construction of bookcases from up-cycled materials which were subsequently placed in community-group settings for Bring a Book/Borrow a Book schemes.

This was reported to have been a very successful project, leading to many conversations about books and reading.

### **National Outcome 3: Safe and protected from Harm**

During the period of the CYP 2018-2020 Donegal CYPSC had two Subcommittees under National Outcome 3 Safe and Protected from Harm; The Safe and Secure Subcommittee and the Prevention Partnership and Family Support Subcommittee.

#### **Safe and Secure Subcommittee:**

##### **Briefing on the new Domestic Violence Legislation**

In 2019 this Subcommittee, led by An Garda Síochána, Courts Service and Donegal Domestic Violence Service, and funded by CYPSC BOBF funding, organised a Briefing on the new Domestic Violence Legislation in the New Court House Letterkenny. This placed an emphasis on Coercive Control and targeted staff in legal and court services and Gardaí. Participants received Continuous Professional Development (CPD) points for participation in this event. Content included input from Fermanagh Women's Aid on the victim's experience of coercive control, detailed the changes the new Domestic Violence legislation has brought to Gardaí practice and response. Donegal Domestic Violence Service brought attention to the impact of coercive control on children in the home. 27 participants including the Donegal District Judge took part.

#### **Going to Court Guide:**

The need to develop a protocol for Court Services working with young people attending Court proceedings was identified by this subcommittee; however, this action was overtaken by the decision to do so nationally. A related action was the development of the 'Going to Court Guide for Young People'. This initiative was led by Donegal Youth Services, with the support of the Court Services, Gardaí and with the participation of young people. The Guide Book provides advice for all young people who may have to go to court either as a witness, injured party or defendant. It was developed to support young people who come in contact with the Court services and to reduce any anxiety or stress they may feel. It covers topics such as types of courts, what happens after someone commits a crime, being called as a witness or as a victim of crime or as a defendant. It explains legal terms, what is involved in giving evidence, who will be in the court room and what they do. The Going to Court Guide was approved and launched by Judge Kelly in Court House, Letterkenny January 2020.

#### **Parent's Guide to Device Safety:**

The Safe and Secure Subcommittee led by Donegal Youth Services (DYS) responded to recommendations arising from a Donegal Youth Council Survey of Young People's Internet Use and Behaviours in 2017, by developing 'A Parent's Guide to Device Safety'. The Guide Book, supported by BOBF funding, was launched in March 2019 and 5000 copies were distributed. Tusla Area Manager has committed funding for the printing of a further 1000 copies. Donegal Youth Services in

collaboration with schools and community and voluntary organisations continues to facilitate Internet Safety workshops with young people and parents.

#### **Coercive Control Conference:**

The Conference on Coercive Control, which took place on 11th Dec 2019, was a collaborative initiative jointly funded by the Cooperation and Working Together (CAWT) cross border Multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences (MACE) Project<sup>2</sup> and Donegal CYPSC Safe and Secure Subcommittee. Tusla, HSE, and An Garda Síochána were key partners in this initiative. Attendees gained an understanding of the lived experience of coercive control as described by Luke Hart, Survivor, son and brother of Claire and Charlotte Hart. This Conference featured keynote speakers covering the new Domestic Violence Legislation with a particular emphasis on Coercive Control: how to recognise the signs of Coercive Control; the impact on children and young people and the agency's response when identified. Contributors included Michelle Alonzo, Women's Aid, Marie Hainsworth, Donegal Domestic Violence Service, An Garda Síochána, Domestic Violence Division, PSNI Commander and Superintendent Clive Beatty and Tusla. Gendered leaflets on 'Intimate Partner Violence', 1 for young men and 1 for young women (lead agency Donegal Youth Service, funded by CYPSC BOBF funding) were also launched and distributed at this event. 310 frontline staff across all agencies participated in this event with Information Stands from relevant agencies. This event laid the foundations for the roll out of dedicated training by the Mace Project, across the county in 2020.

#### **Prevention, Partnership and Family Support Subcommittee:**

The Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) Subcommittee was established to act as the Steering Group for the development of PPFS in Donegal. The Subcommittee played an important role in advising on the development and implementation of the PPFS areas of work; further developing the work of the CYPSC Local Area Pathways Advisory Group by developing the 5 Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN), suggesting CFSN membership, engaging in Meitheal training and acting as champions for Meitheal within constituent organisations and sectors. The Committee was a key source of critical feedback on the challenges and benefits of implementation of Meitheal across a diverse range of sectors. It assumed a constructive role in identifying ways in which barriers could be overcome and methods to further bed down Meitheal as core business within key services working with children and families. In addition to its core advisory function, sample tangible outputs include a seminar organised by Tusla CFSN staff and Foróige on good practice on participation of children and young people which attracted over 120 participants, design of a practitioner leaflet for Meitheal and a presentation on Traveller and Roma issues.

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<sup>2</sup> Multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences (MACE) Project is a Cooperation and Working Together (CAWT) initiative funded by the European Regional Development Fund Interreg VA.

The initial functions of the PPFS Subcommittee in advising on the establishment of PPFS (in particular, CFSNs and Meitheal) as a development and mainstreaming programme within Tusla have been achieved. The key point of learning from this subcommittee has been the importance of securing inter-agency engagement in the development of new initiatives. The breadth and depth of knowledge, experience, insight and contacts on the committee has been essential in establishing all elements of PPFS on a sound footing in Donegal. The challenges have included the fact that a number of additional and focused inter-agency fora have been established since the formation of the PPFS subcommittee with the consequence that some of the initial actions identified by the Subcommittee became more relevant to those fora (such as a workshop on child centred outcomes, sharing good practice in the use of pre and post intervention evaluation tools for use across all child and family support services). A second challenge was that actions identified were also the responsibility of a dedicated staff team within Tusla (such as delivery of briefings on Meitheal, review of data to identify gaps in Meitheal uptake) and as such became less relevant as being the responsibility of an inter-agency committee. The role of the Subcommittee operated in parallel with the recruitment of dedicated staff in Tusla to deliver the PPFS Programme of work with inevitable duplication within action plans. The key change therefore over the lifetime of this Subcommittee has been that the PPFS agenda is now the responsibility of a dedicated staff team within Tusla. Central to the efficacy of this work is inter-agency advice, guidance and priorities - this now happens at local area level through the five Child and Family Support Networks, each of which has a membership of 20-25, all of whom work to achieve outcomes for children and families.

In summary, the functions have been achieved and as was the overall intention at the outset – Prevention Partnership Family Support (PPFS) is now mainstream Tusla business. A review of the role of the Donegal CYPSC PPFS Subcommittee resulted in a decision to wind it down, having successfully achieved all its initial functions. Following consultation, new structures have been set up to ensure a continued emphasis on supporting parents and improved communication across the wider CYPSC Family:

- The Parent Hub Donegal member's preference was to become a dedicated parenting subcommittee, under Transformational Goals with a seat at the CYPSC table.<sup>3</sup>
- The Child and Family Support Networks (CFSNs) will link directly into Donegal CYPSC by sending representatives from each CFSN in turn, to the Donegal CYPSC meetings with CFSN as a standing item on the agenda.
- A CFSN Coordinator will join each CYPSC Subcommittee.

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<sup>3</sup> Further information on the Parent Hub achievements under Transformational Goals

## **National Outcome 4: Economic Opportunity and Security**

### **Economic Wellbeing and Disability Equality Subcommittee**

In 2020, to support more effective and streamlined working, the Disability Inclusion working group joined with the Economic Wellbeing Subcommittee to become the Economic Wellbeing and Disability Equality Subcommittee. Over the last 3 years, Donegal CYPSC engaged in an important learning journey with regard to disability and the challenges faced by young people with a disability or additional needs and their families. In 2017, while developing the previous Children and Young People's Plan, disability as an issue was not being highlighted in consultations nor was there a lead agency or champion for this cohort of children and young people.

#### **Disability and Inclusion awareness raising and training**

In October 2018, the seminar 'From accepting diversity to true inclusion' marked the start of an awareness raising and training process on Disability and Inclusion for Donegal CYPSC. In 2019/20, in collaboration with the Disability Equality Specialist Support Agency (DESSA), funded by BOBF and 'What Works'<sup>4</sup> a series of workshops, attended by 27 partner organisations with 130 participants, covered the following topics: Equality and Human Rights, Medical versus Social Model, Law and Policy and finally, How to make your organisation Communication Accessible (delivered three times due to demand).

An important impact of this training is the changes it has stimulated in Tusla practice in Donegal:

- (i) At Intake - Set questions are asked at Screening stage to determine if there are any special needs including disability. If special needs do exist for children or their carers, staff and service user consider what type of communication is best in order to maximise their participation. This is then put in place and reviewed at intervals for the period of Tusla involvement with the service user.
- (ii) Participation plans are drawn up for each child in care in County Donegal. This addresses how Tusla maximises overall participation including how staff can overcome any barriers relating to disability.
- (iii) Tusla have also embarked on a project to determine how services are structured in order to ensure the structure has accessibility for all regardless of needs as a core principle.

#### **Donegal Careers Training and Lifestyle Fair**

On 16th November 2019, Letterkenny Institute of Technology provided the venue for the first 'Donegal Careers, Training and Lifestyle Fair' for young people with a disability or additional needs. This event supported this cohort of young people and their families to explore progression pathways and the options available to them. To help them on their way, 45 different service providers, through information stands and presentations, advised on the supports their organisations provide in areas such as education and training, recreational activities and lifestyle, careers options, funding

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<sup>4</sup> Department of Children and Youth Affairs, 'What Works Fund'

supports, independent living supports and more. The voice of young people took centre stage at this event. There were a number of short video screenings that captured the real life experience of young people with disabilities and what it means to them to be included in social events and community activities and to be treated ‘just like everyone else’. Two young men, one with a physical disability and one with an intellectual disability, described their experience of being part of the workforce in a local business. They shared how having a job can be life changing by increasing confidence, self-esteem and enabling participation in the everyday life of their local community and how ‘being given a chance by an employer’ had opened up so many options for them and allowed them to progress in life, ‘just like their peers’.

Workshops run twice during the day were well attended and included:

- ‘Onside Project’, Independent Living Movement of Ireland, funded by EU
- Donegal ETB, Training Opportunities in Further Education
- Overview of Disability Services HSE
- Donegal Sports Partnership
- Assistive Technology, Donegal Library Services
- Bluestack Special Needs Foundation – Supports available and Why we do, What we do!
- Foróige, Social and recreational opportunities
- One to One Job Coaching, Employment Response Northwest
- ‘Rights and Social Welfare Benefits’, Congress Centre Letterkenny

This event funded by BOBF, attracted 250 participants, frontline staff young people and their parents, was supported by Donegal County Council Communications Department. Tusla supplied Sign interpreters. Bluestack Special Needs Foundation provided a Saturday Club for younger siblings with a disability or additional needs and Donegal Youth Council provided entertainment. Meet and Greet, hosted the video screening, and the Saturday Club, helped set up and clean up. The Donegal Directory of Disability Services developed in collaboration with the Bluestack Special Needs Foundation was launched and distributed. The Bluestack Special Needs Foundation update the online version every six months. The impact of COVID19 restrictions and the vulnerability of this cohort of young people prevented this event taking place in 2020 as planned. BOBF funding ring-fenced for this event was redirected to the Sensory Support Gift Pack project and with some additional funding supported 600 young people during COVID19 restrictions.

### **Supporting vulnerable young people transition to independent living**

Tusla Leaving and After Care service in collaboration with Donegal County Council Housing Department identifies suitable accommodation for young people transitioning out of care. In 2018, Donegal CYPSC provided funding support to create a secure facility for the storage of donated furniture and household items.

### **Personal financial skills development**

In collaboration with the Ulster Bank Community Banker Developing Personal Financial Management skills workshops were held in a number of locations with 38 participants.

### **Issues and gaps in education and employment of Traveller and Roma young people**

This action was led by Donegal Travellers Project. Traveller and Roma Young people experience poverty, prejudice, racism and discrimination creating difficulties in accessing and availing of services and in accessing accommodation. Low levels of literacy, English (in relation to Roma) and IT skills among parents and poor health are additional challenges. Donegal Traveller Project and partners provide support to parents to liaise with schools and to develop their skills, provide a range of supports to address issues around poverty, to improve mental and physical health outcomes, and provide support in relation to housing and accommodation difficulties. A dedicated homework space provides the opportunity for Traveller and Roma children to be supported in their education including in STEM and creative activities. St Gabriel's Preschool offers intercultural learning opportunities for children aged 3-5. Donegal CYPSC provided funding for educational STEM toys for Roma children at Christmas in 2019. COVID19 has created additional challenges in relation to families having access to technology for online learning, which may increase the educational divide in future. COVID19 has also delayed plans to hold a Traveller and Roma children and young people's seminar.

### **National Outcome 5: Connected Respected and Contributing:**

Donegal CYPSC did not have a dedicated Subcommittee under National Outcome 5 and had opted instead to pursue this area of work by collaborating with the youth organisations and structures already existing within the community. Donegal CYPSC also worked closely with the Donegal Youth Council. For example, young people participating in the Young Carers group and Breakout LGBTIQ+ group supported by Donegal Youth Service, are the decision makers for their respective peer group activities. Young people participating in a variety of activities with Donegal Youth Services were involved in the development, design and content of Youth resources such the 'Parental Guide to Device Safety, 2018/9', The Going to Court Guide for Young People 2019 and gendered leaflets on Intimate Partner Violence 2019. Developing a Youth Participation Subcommittee and a mechanism to support youth participation in decision making in County Donegal are actions to be pursued in the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2021-2023.

### **Donegal Youth Council:**

Donegal Youth Council (DYC) 2017-2018 had two representatives on CYPSC supported by a youth worker. Following a review of this experience and a workshop with the DYC 2019-2020 it was decided that it would be more beneficial to provide a dedicated slot on the agenda for DYC to attend

and make presentations to CYPSC twice a year, attend the appropriate subcommittee on specific topics to feed into CYPSC work, contribute to the CYPSC Newsletter and support CYPSC events. The CYPSC Coordinator sits on both the Youth Council Advisory Group and the Donegal Youth Council Agenda also fed into the Children and Young People Plan. Young people from Donegal Youth Council, Bluestack Special Needs Foundation and Donegal Down Syndrome supported and participated in CYPSC events such as the Disability Equality Seminar 'From acceptance of diversity to true inclusion, October 2018; the Launch of the Children and Young People's Plan 2018' and they fulfilled several supporting roles during the 'Inclusive Training and Lifestyle Fair for young People with a Disability or additional needs', November 2019. NYC also played a key role in the development of this CYPP, through the design and content of the Consultation Surveys for Young People; they piloted these surveys and encouraged the participation of their peers.

In 2019 CYPSC developed an Expression of Interest Process for the young adult representative (18-24 years) which included ensuring that a relevant organisation committed to support this young person in this role. A past member of Donegal Youth Council, now a Youth Leader supported by Foróige, took up her seat on Donegal CYPSC in September 2020.

### **Transformational Goals: Parent Hub Donegal**

The Parent Hub Donegal was originally set up in 2013 by the Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee, under the Health and Wellbeing Subcommittee, to look at parent support needs in the County. The Parent Hub Donegal Website was launched in September 2016 as a "One Stop Shop" online service, providing information to parents about support services, advice on parenting issues and to promote the accessibility of Parenting Programmes to all parents in Donegal. Group parenting programmes provide parents with helpful advice and guidance around different strategies to aid them through what sometimes can be a challenging time in their lives. Parents who have attended programmes in the past often highlight the value of the peer support experienced through participation in these training programmes. Parent Hub Donegal also communicates with Parents via Facebook with a following of well over 3000 people with some posts reaching 20000 +. Activities include:

- In 2018 and 2019 the 'Make One Change Campaign' supported a greater awareness of the Parent Hub, encouraged families to make a small change to improve family life, promoted Parenting Programmes and Tusla's Key Messages. Sponsorship from local businesses across the county and additional funding from Tusla supported these events.
- Promotional activities: Fridge magnets with logo and contact details delivered to every family who had a child of primary school age in Donegal; A quarterly Parent Hub Newsletter



promoted the parent support services available in Donegal, Tusla's Key Messages and profiled the Parent Support Champions; In 2019, monthly newspaper articles and regular inputs on both Highland Radio and Radio Na Gaeltachta; Information stands at events and Posters and other materials sent out to Health Centres, libraries and GP Surgeries.

- International Parents Day Events 2018/19 encouraged the participation of parents from the many cultures living in Donegal were funded by Tusla and Donegal Local Development CLG.
- A referral form was developed for all the Parent's Plus Programmes and referrals centralised through the Parent Hub Coordinator who liaised with member services and others to deliver coordinated programmes across the county.
- Train the Trainer events funded by the Wheel, covered Parent's Plus Early Years Programme, Children's Programme, Adolescent Programme, Parenting When Separated and Working Things Out Programmes. In addition, a number of staff from member organisations trained to deliver the Parents Plus Special Needs Programme.
- Additional learning days were organised in conjunction with Middletown Autism Service, HSE Key Services, and the Alcohol Forum to increase practitioners' knowledge in supporting parents in particular contexts and talks on parenting were also delivered in schools and community groups.
- A number of issue-based meetings were held through the Parent Hub including one on Anxiety in Children. This brought together services not normally sitting around the Parent Hub table. These new partnerships have resulted in a collaborative response from PPFs and the HSE Psychology service to deliver talks in the community to parents across the five Child and Family Support Networks. Parent Hub Members supported a Pamper the Parents Morning in Kilmacrennan, initiated through the Parent Support Champions, which has led to the development of an extremely successful Baby and Toddler Group.

In 2020, the Parent Hub amalgamated with the Tusla Parent Support Champions Initiative to ensure a streamlined approach to inter-agency parenting supports in the county and to avoid duplication.

A new Parenting initiative was established in 2020 in response to the loss of the Parentstop service and Parent Hub Coordinator post. The new project is managed by Finn Valley Family Resource Centre / Springboard and commenced service delivery on 1st July 2020. This initiative is jointly funded by Tusla and the HSE and is responsible for a number of the core functions previously carried out by the Parent Hub Coordinator:

- Maintains a central information point for 'all things parenting' in Donegal through the ParentHub Website, social media and Parenting Phone line platforms.
- Identification of need and the organisation of parenting events, programmes or information evenings, in response to that need.
- Quality assurance of parenting events through peer support to all parenting facilitators.

## **Donegal CYPSC COVID Response 2020**

The outbreak of COVID19 and associated public health restrictions had a dramatic effect on day-to-day life in Donegal, particularly for those most vulnerable and those who found themselves out of work and their monthly income severely impacted. This was a very challenging time for everyone as normal structures and supports were reduced and/or closed down. The lock down period was particularly difficult for vulnerable families, families on low or insecure incomes, children and young people with a disability or additional needs, school going children and students. The challenge for Donegal CYPSC was to identify areas of greatest need and find innovative ways to respond positively, within the restraints of COVID19 public health restrictions.

### **Communication:**

Donegal CYPSC's communications role was dramatically extended during the COVID19 Lockdown. The quarterly 'Together we are Donegal CYPSC' Newsletter was replaced by a weekly COVID Community Response Newsletter during Lockdown and in September 2020 became a fortnightly publication. An additional COVID Supports section was added to the Donegal page of the National CYPSC website and both direct circulation of information and activity on Facebook and Twitter were escalated. This covered information on Public Health Advice, COVID supports in Donegal, local regional and national funding opportunities, Helplines and detailed changes of services provision as a result of COVID. The newsletter also profiled and celebrated the sterling work being carried out by volunteers, community and voluntary organisations and statutory agencies in the county.

### **Fund for Families:**

Donegal CYPSC re-directed €5,000 to a collaborative project with Lifestart Services to create a central fund to respond to the level of poverty and hardship evident in the community. Lifestart Services functioned as the lead agency and fiscal manager and also set up a Go Fund Me page which with individual donations doubled the funding available. Needs presenting included: food poverty, cleaning materials, clothes - especially for Babies, nappies, formula, home heating fuel, household items (for those being moved into rented property) and thermometers. Sensory Support Gift packs were supplied to 70 children and young people. 19 agencies engaged in referring families for support.

### **Children's Right Alliance Food Provision Scheme**

Donegal CYPSC supported the Family Resource Centre Network application for this scheme and 100 children and their families received weekly food parcels for a 12 week period.

### **Sensory Support Gifting Project**

Donegal CYPSC became aware of the heightened levels of stress and anxiety experienced by young people with a disability or additional needs, as a direct result of the COVID19 restrictions. Working

with the Bluestack Special Needs Foundation, CYPSC re-directed funding to implement the Sensory Support Gift Bags Initiative. The initiative initially provided funding support to 4 local charities who work with young people with physical, sensory and intellectual disabilities across Donegal: Bluestack Special Needs Foundation, Sproai Agus Sport, Donegal Down Syndrome and ICARE.

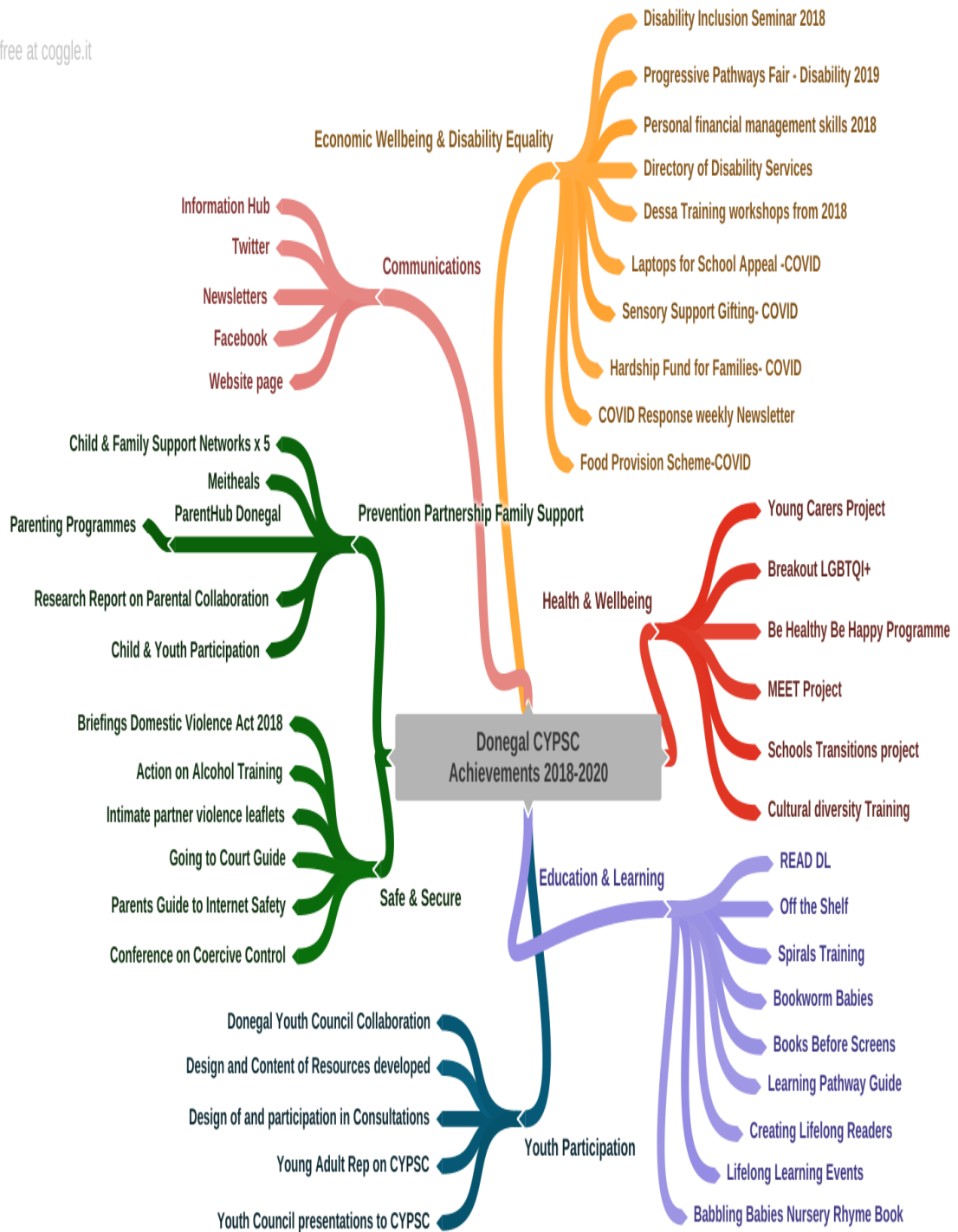
Parents reported children experiencing an increase in negative behavioural patterns and an increase in self-injurious behaviour, particularly among those who have sensory seeking/sensory avoidance concerns. Additional stress became overwhelming as many of these children and young people did not have access to the variety of sensory stimulations which allows them to relieve some of their internal pressure, which would normally be available to them during their normal school day or through the various social events and clubs. Drawing on the expertise of all agencies involved, a Sensory Support Gift Bag was created for each child, tailored to the individual child's needs. Supported by An Garda Síochána, 400 Children received a Sensory Support Bag delivered to their door. The Sensory Support Gift Pack was originally an initiative of Lifestart Service CLG, who continued to provide Gift Packs as part of the Fund for Families COVID19 Response.

### **National Play Day**

Donegal CYPSC made a proposal to Donegal County Council for National Play Day funding to allow an extension of the Sensory Support Gifting Project to the Northwest of Donegal. In collaboration with Autism Awareness Northwest, 70 children received a sensory support gift bag tailored to their individual needs. 30 gift packs went to Dungloe Autism Awareness Group, and 30 to young people living in the Gweedore, Cresslough, Termon, Falcarragh, Gortahork and Crolly areas. In support of the Autism Friendly Gweedore project 60 sensory toy boxes were supplied to local businesses who took part in Autism Awareness training. This group also provided gift packs for children, autism awareness training and sensory toy boxes for businesses on Tory Island. Eileen Magner from RTÉ was present to do a report on Tory Island becoming the first island of Ireland to become autism friendly. This fund also contributed to the establishment of an Autism family support group in Finn Valley Family Resource Centre.

### **Laptop Appeal**

In collaboration with Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce Donegal CYPSC made an appeal for support for post primary students struggling to continue schoolwork remotely. 10 refurbished laptops were donated by Pramerica for the use of post primary students. Local groups were supported with applications seeking funding to increase access to digital resources in their areas.



## How the Children and Young People's Plan was developed

The Donegal Children and Young People's Plan was developed in line with the template provided by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. The development of the Plan took place over several months from January 2020 to October 2020 and included:

- Review of the previous plan
- Secondary data collection and analysis
- Consultation with key stakeholders
- Collaborative needs analysis

### Review of the previous plan

In November 2019, Donegal CYPSC decided to review the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2018-2020, to develop and submit the new CYPP 2021-2023 for approval in 2020. It agreed that:

- Only actions with a lead agency identified would be included in the plan
- Only actions with an identified partner agency (in addition to the lead) would be included
- A balance would be maintained between a strategic focus and an action focus in the plan
- With agreement existing action areas could be continued or expanded
- A balance would be sought between universal and targeted interventions and supports

### Data Collection

A number of data sources and reference documents were accessed in the development of the Donegal CYPP 2021-2023 (Appendix 3)

### Multi-Stakeholder Consultations (Appendices 4,5,6,7,8)

- Online consultation with children through childcare providers and parents
- Online survey of young people
- Online survey of parents
- Online survey CYPSC Partner Agencies and Service Providers based on the feedback from young people and parents
- Video conferencing with Child and Family Networks X5
- Video conferencing with CYPSC and CYPSC Subcommittees

### Audit of services (Section 3)

The Parent Hub Website and Directory of Disability Services Donegal were used as a starting point with stakeholder input used to identify any omissions or updates required and revisions made.

### Local Needs Analysis (Section 4)

A collaborative approach was taken to the process of local needs analysis and the identification of priority areas and actions took place with facilitated reflection and discussion on:

- Socio demographic data and evidence of needs
- Consultation findings
- Donegal CYPSC role, responsibility and mandate
- Strategic direction and links to other plans e.g. the Local Economic Community Plan
- Experience and the learning from the last 3 years
- Existing priority areas and gaps in service provision

Proposed actions were drawn up under the 5 National Outcomes and presented to CYPSC members. Stakeholder organisations were invited to identify if their organisation would be a lead or partner agency. Indicators were chosen on the basis of relevance and feasibility as a means of measurement. Subcommittees agreed the content of the plan under each National Outcome before the first full draft of the CYPP was circulated among the CYPSC and Subcommittee members for further input and comment.

### CYPP Development Process

Timeline	Process	Stakeholders Input or Consulted	Outputs
November 2019	CYPSC Discussion	Full Committee	Decision to start work on the new plan in 2020
November/December 2019	Tendering process for a consultant to support the planning process developed and implemented	Change Management Subcommittee	Selection procedure completed and contract drawn up
March 2020	Initial scoping meeting: Introductions and Expectations	CYPSC partner organisations and other service providers Donegal Youth Council	Review of CYPP 2018-2020. Planning and Consultation Process CYPP 2021-2023
March/April 2020	Services Mapping	Service providers in County Donegal	Desktop review of services and resources
April and May 2020	Consultation process revised in line with COVID19 restrictions	CYPSC Chair / Vice Chair Change Management Committee	Consultation process changed to remote contact only
April 2020	Virtual Data Analytics Focus Group conducted remotely via Zoom	CYPSC partner organisations and other service providers Donegal Youth Council	List compiled of local data sources to inform Socio Demographic Profile and augment 2016 CSO statistics. Appendix 3
April 2020	Agencies consulted individually	As above	As above
April 2020	Online surveys developed to consult <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children</li> <li>• Youth</li> <li>• Parents</li> <li>• Agencies</li> </ul>	Input re content, design and process of distribution: Donegal Youth Councillors Senior Researcher County Council, Childcare Committee	Three surveys with prize draw developed to consult children, young people and parents.

Timeline	Process	Stakeholders Input or Consulted	Outputs
April 2020	Multimedia video recorded of the implementation of CYPP 2018-2020	All CYPSC partner organisations	Virtual Celebration of Achievement CYPP 2018-2020 completed.
May 2020	Surveys distributed via CYPSC partner organisations with reference to multimedia video as a context for respondents	All CYPSC partner organisations	Completed Surveys: 210 young people 234 parents 20 Early Years <a href="#">Appendix 4</a>
June 2020	Commissioned HBSC 2018 Short Report Donegal	Data from 6 Post Primary schools = 550 young people 4 Primary Schools = 259 children	NUIG Short Report Appendix 5
June 2020	Analysis of feedback from Youth, Parents, Children Informed Service Providers Surveys	Circulated to CYPSC partners and other service providers Donegal Youth Council	Presentations to CYPSC Subcommittees Draft consultation report
June 2020	4 X Virtual Workshops / Presentation of initial findings and initial discussions on emerging priorities	CYPSC and Subcommittees Donegal Youth Council Invited representatives from other relevant agencies	CYPSC Partner s and service providers survey distributed 35 responses <a href="#">Appendix 4</a>
June 2020	Socio-demographic profile drafted and circulated for input / comment	Circulated to CYPSC and other relevant agencies for individual inputs/updates	Revised draft profile.
August 13 <sup>th</sup> 2020	CYPP Planning Day	CYPSC Coordinator and Consultant	Listed gaps in information re section 2, Additional comment required section 1, Appendices
Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> 2020	CYPSC Planning meeting with full Committee	CYPSC and Consultant	Decisions on Priority Areas, Objectives and Actions in light of needs assessment
Sept 4 <sup>th</sup> 2020	Dedicated facilitated session with Child and Family Network (CFSN) representatives	Representatives from the 5 CFSN Networks, Network Coordinators, Coordinator and Consultant	Input re needs assessment and action planning

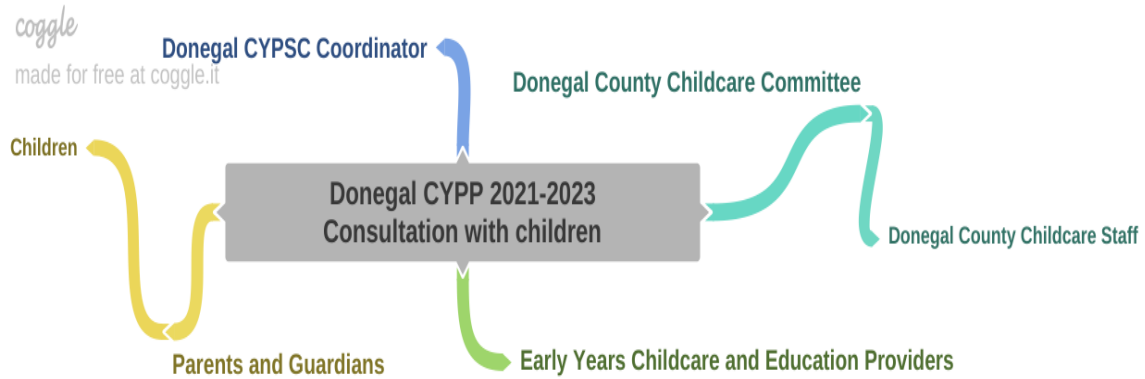
Timeline	Process	Stakeholders Input or Consulted	Outputs
1 <sup>st</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2020	4 X facilitated sessions with CYPSC Subcommittees. Presentation of needs assessment and discussion on action plan.	Each CYPSC Subcommittee, Coordinator and Consultant	Progressed Priority Areas, Objectives Actions
15 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> , Sept 2020	4 X follow up meetings on action plan with CYPSC Subcommittees	Each CYPSC Subcommittee, Coordinator	Completion of Priority Areas and Objectives. Drafting of Activities etc.
24 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2020	CYPP Planning Day	CYPSC Coordinator, Administrator and Consultant	Draft Section 5 and 6
Prior to 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Circulation of first full draft CYPP 2021-2023	CYPSC and Subcommittees	Edits
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Draft CYPP presentation	CYPSC	Edits
Oct 2020	Submission of Draft CYPP 2021-2023 to National Office	CYPSC National Office	Edits



**Overview of Donegal CYPP 2021-2023 Consultations:**

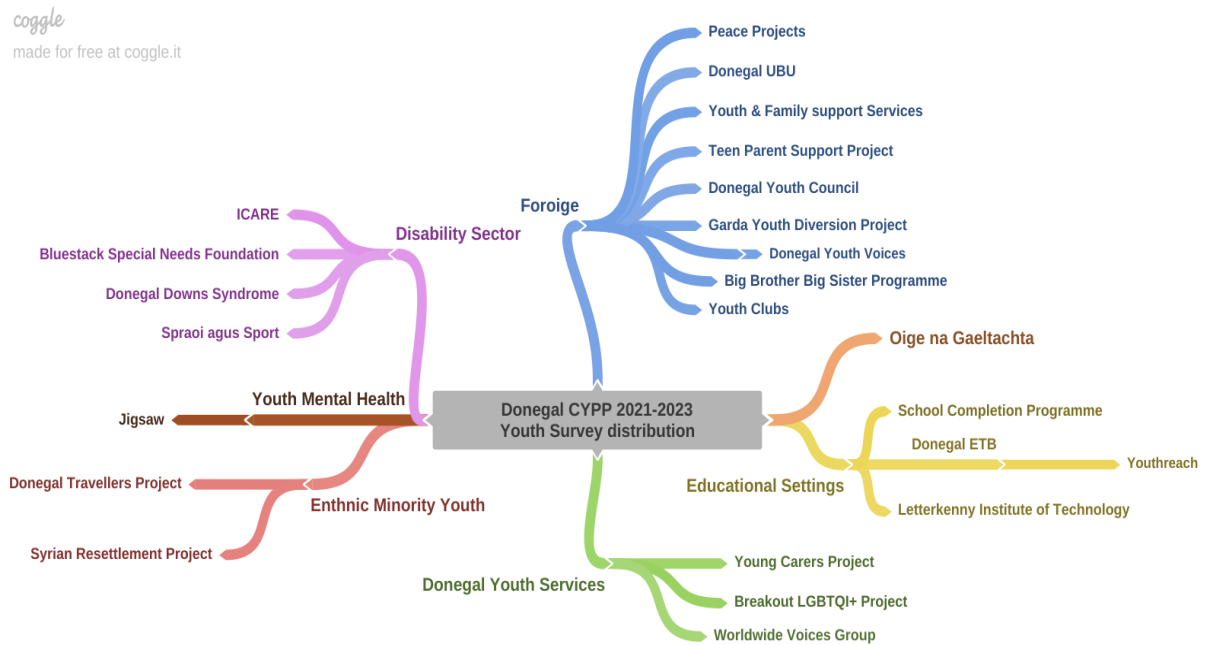
**1. Donegal CYPP 2021-2023 Consultation with Children:**

**Figure 3**



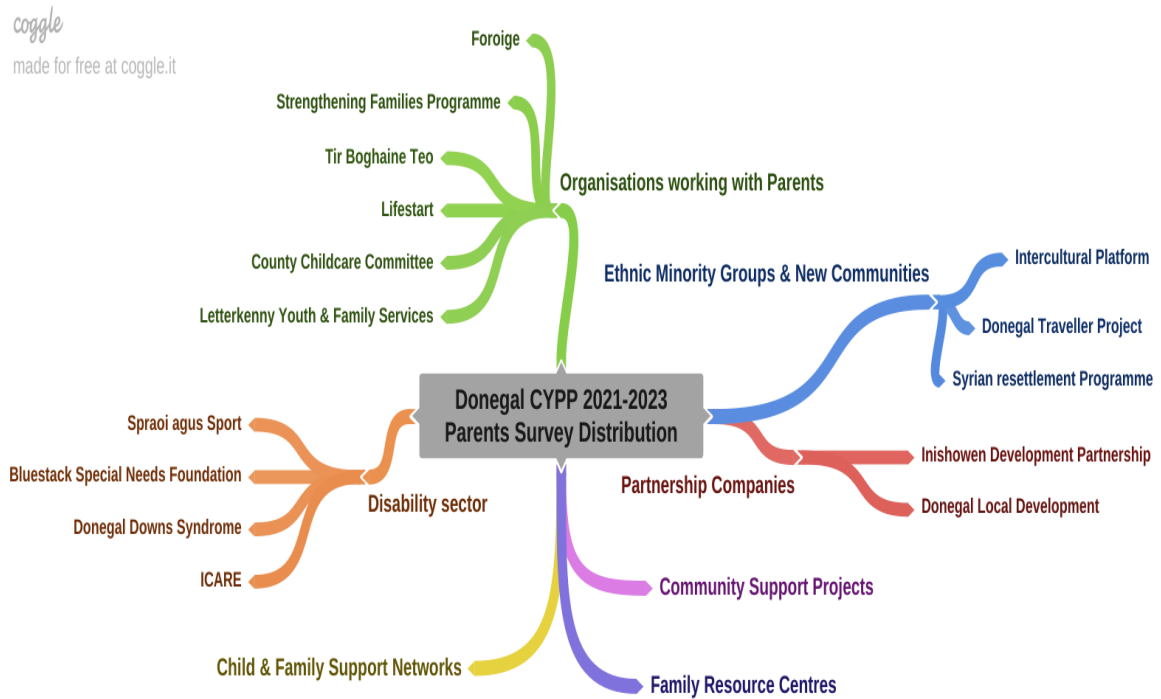
**2. Donegal CYPP 2021-2023 Youth Survey distribution:**

**Figure 4**



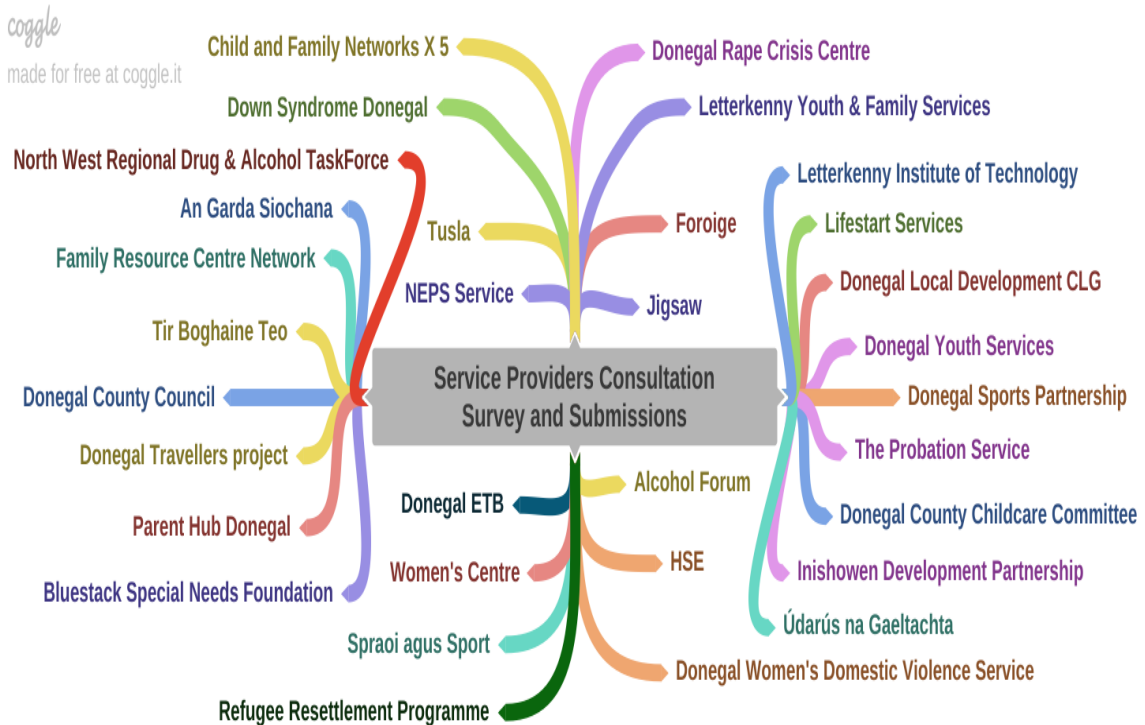
**Donegal CYPP 2021-2023 Parent Survey distribution:**

**Figure 5**



**3. Donegal CYPP 2021-2023 Service Providers Survey distribution:**

**Figure 6**



## Section 2: Socio-Demographic Profile of County Donegal

This section presents the socio-demographic information required for effective planning and monitoring of services for children and young people in Donegal.

### Summary of Key Indicators

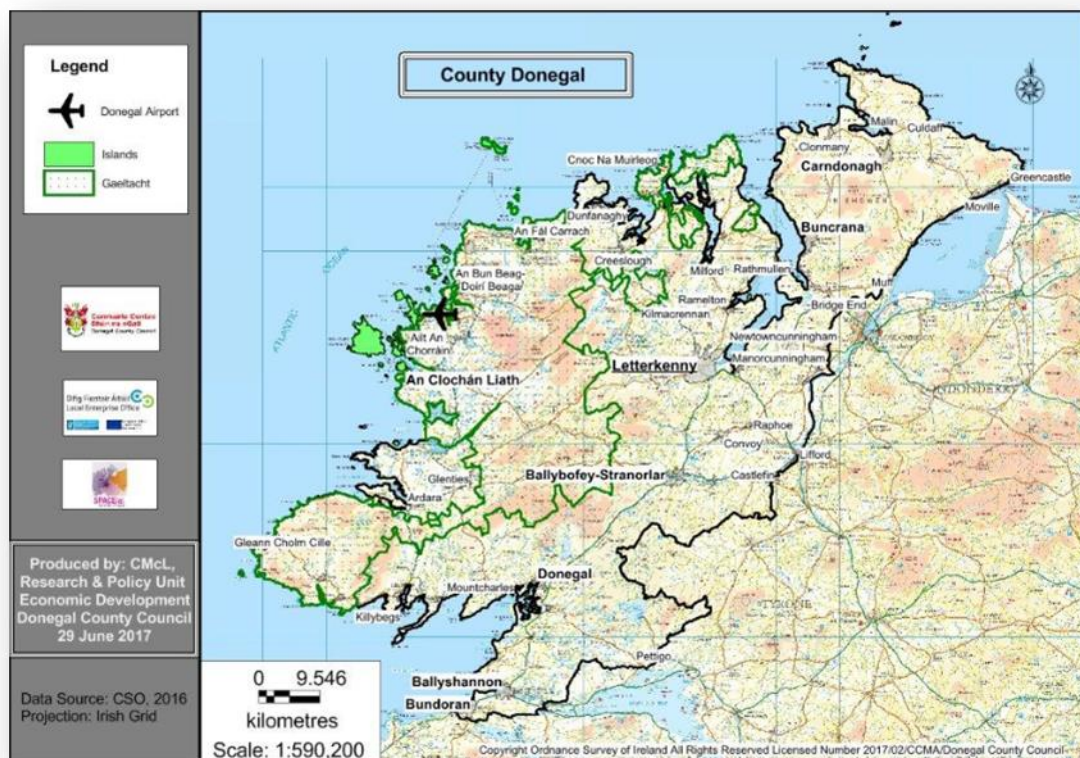
This table presents the basic socio-demographic indicators included in the State of the Nation's Children reports. It compares how children and young people are doing in Donegal with those in the State. Following this summary table, more extensive indicators are presented based on the five national outcomes.

Deprivation Indices and Key Components	Donegal	State
<i>Pobal HP Index 2016 Relative Deprivation Score</i>	-6.4	0.6
<i>Population Change 2016 (%)</i>	-1.20%	3.80%
<i>Age Dependency Rate</i>	37.7%	34.5%
<i>Lone parent ratio 2016 (%)</i>	20.9%	19.9%
<i>Primary Education 2016 (%)</i>	21.6%	13.0%
<i>Third Level Education 2016 (%)</i>	28.3%	35.9%
<i>Professional Classes 2016 (%)</i>	29.9%	36.2%
<i>Semi/Unskilled Class 2016 (%)</i>	21.0%	17.9%
<i>Unemployment rate - male 2016 (%)</i>	20.2%	14.1%
<i>Unemployment rate - female 2016 (%)</i>	15.9%	12.2%
<i>LA Rented Housing 2016</i>	8.8%	8.7%
<i>Private Rented Housing 2016</i>	13.3%	19.4%
<i>Other Key Indicators</i>	<i>Donegal</i>	<i>State</i>
<i>Child and Youth population 0-17 years</i>	42,042	1,190,502
<i>Child and Youth population 18-24 years</i>	11,407	392,502
<i>Child and Youth population 0-24 years</i>	53,449	1,583,004
<i>Child and youth population 0-24 years as % of total population</i>	33.6%	33.2%
<i>Child and Youth population under 18 on the Islands off Donegal</i>	286	
<i>Rate of infant mortality per 1,000 live births</i>	3.7	3.3
<i>Rate of neonatal infant mortality per 1,000 live births</i>	2.6	2.4
<i>Children from Northern Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales</i>	16.32%	5.9%
<i>Children of other nationalities (excluding United Kingdom)</i>	4.78%	11.37%
<i>Young Carers as percentage of population 0-24 years</i>	4.5	4.1
<i>Leaving cert retention rates (of 2006 entry cohort) source</i>	88.99%	90.22%
<i>% of population aged 15+ whose education ceased under 15</i>	3.9%	3.6%

## Geographical Context

In planning children and young people's services, it is important to understand the geographical context for delivering services to children and young people in County Donegal in 2020. Donegal's landscape is varied and dramatic, comprising of mountains, valleys, and fertile plains with a deeply indented coastline and many islands both inhabited and uninhabited. Donegal is the most northerly County in Ireland and has a land mass of 4,861 sq. km's or 6.9% of the total land area of the State. It is the fourth largest county in Ireland with a sparse population density (32.3 persons per sq. km compared to 70 persons per sq. km in the State) and is predominately a rural county (27 % of the total population living in aggregate urban areas compared to 63% in the State). Given the physical size of the County, its weak urban structure and low population density, accessing and providing services to children, young people and their families can be challenging. These challenges are an important context in developing efficient, sustainable and economically viable services. Overcoming them often requires creative and innovative methods to sustain children and young person's services in Donegal.

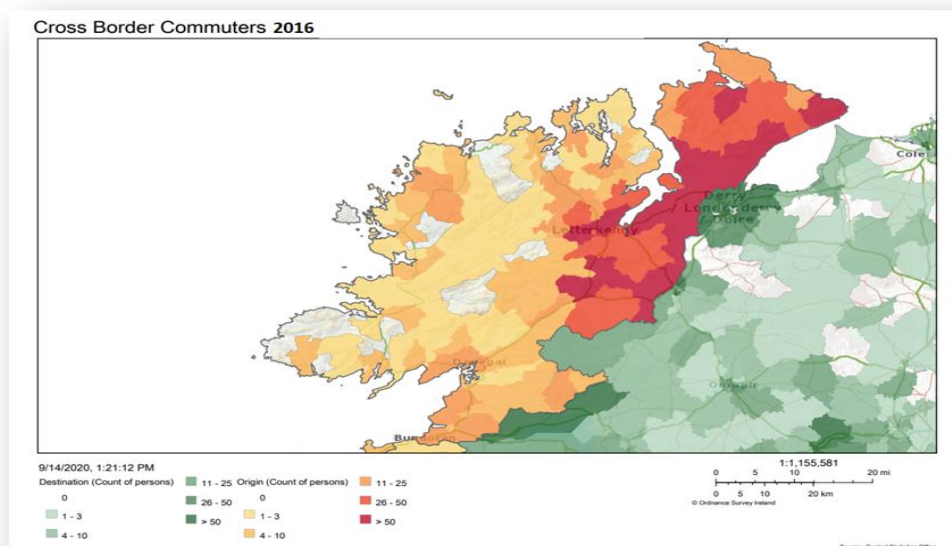
**Figure 7**



**Figure 7:** The County shares 181km of border with Northern Ireland (adjoining the Councils of Derry City and Strabane and Fermanagh and Omagh) and a further 11km of border with County Leitrim as

well as 65 road crossings which include a number of important strategic transport connections. Therefore, it is not surprising that the population of the North West City Region functions on a cross border basis (See Figure 8 below). There are many reasons for the movement and interaction of people, business and goods across the border including access to health, education, entertainment, leisure, social and community facilities, retail activity, access to economic markets and access to international transport hubs as examples. **Figure 8** below illustrates a cross border commuter map for the purposes of work or study. It shows the areas in County Donegal in dark red where there are higher concentrations of persons originating in Donegal and travelling across the land boundary for work and study. This is particularly evident in the east of the County in the Inishowen,<sup>5</sup> Letterkenny and Stranorlar Municipal Districts thus demonstrating the intensity of cross border interactions in the areas closest to the border.<sup>6</sup> Donegal Co. Council has continued with the engagement with Derry City and Strabane District Council in the context of identifying and seeking to mitigate the potential negative impacts that may arise as an outcome of Brexit. This situation will become clearer by the end of 2020. Notwithstanding the above, it is recognised that any barrier to / restriction on movement of people between Donegal and Northern Ireland as a consequence of Brexit will have a significant negative impact on children and young people, and in particular those who live in close proximity to the border.

**Figure 8**



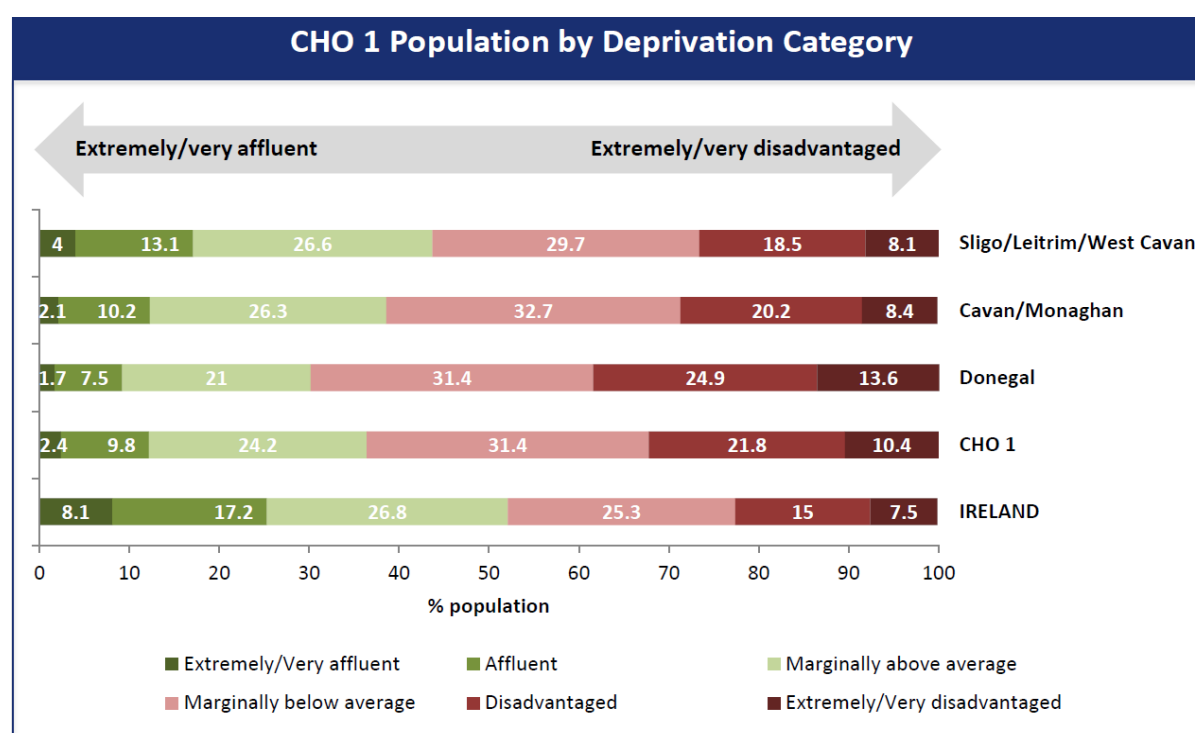
<sup>5</sup> According to Census 2016, 3,478 persons in the Inishowen Municipal District cross the border each day for work or school purposes.

<sup>6</sup> Donegal County Council, September 2020.

## Demographic Context

Donegal accounts for the largest share of the Border Regions Population<sup>7</sup> at 40% in 2016. Donegal is home to 159,192 people and although the population decreased by -1.2% (1,945 persons) over the period 2011 – 2016, it grew by 8.1% over the previous 10 years (or 11,928 persons).

	2006	2011	2016	2016	2016	% Chg	% Chg	% Nat
				Male	Female	2011/16	2006 /16	2016
<b>Donegal</b>	147,264	161,137	159,192	77,510	78,659	-1.2%	8.1%	3.3%
<b>Border<sup>8</sup> Region</b>	357,108	391,994	394,333	196,647	197,686	0.6%	10.4%	8.3%
<b>State</b>	4,239,848	4,588,252	4,761,865	2,354,428	2,407,437	3.8%	12.3%	100.0%



The chart above<sup>9</sup> indicates that each Local Health Office area in HSE in Community Health Office Area 1 (CHO1) and CHO 1 as a whole, has a higher proportion of population categorised as

<sup>7</sup> The NUTS 3 boundaries were amended on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016 (Regulation (EC) No 2066/2016). The changes resulting from the amendment are that Louth has moved from the Border to the Mid-East

<sup>8</sup> The Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) was drawn up by Eurostat in order to define territorial units for the production of regional statistics across the European Union. The NUTS classification has been used in EU legislation since 1988, but it was only in 2003 that the EU Member States, the European Parliament and the Commission established the NUTS regions within a legal framework (Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003). The NUTS 3 boundaries were amended on 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2016 (Regulation (EC) No 2066/2016). The changes resulting from the amendment are that Louth has moved from the Border to the Mid-East and what was formerly South Tipperary has moved from the South-East to the Mid-West. The regional authorities and the two regional assemblies were abolished in the Local Government Act 2014 and were replaced with three regional assemblies. The three regional assemblies are groupings of the new NUTS 3 boundaries.

<sup>9</sup> CH01 Child Health Profile 2018



disadvantaged to some extent than the national average. Donegal has the highest level of disadvantage in CHO1.<sup>10</sup>

### *Children and Young People*

There are 53, 449 Children and Young People aged 0 to 24 years in County Donegal and they are the primary focus for developing this Children and Young People's Plan. This cohort has decreased by 5.8% over the 2011 – 2016 period. Children and young people require a range of different services at different stages in their lives and it is important to understand trends in population and the consequent changing need for services. In the last census there was a:

- 15.3% decrease in the number of children aged 0-4 years (pre-school)
- 1% increase in the number of children aged 5 – 12 years (primary School)
- 2.1 % increase in the number of teenagers aged 13-18 years (secondary School)
- 16.2% decrease in young adults aged 19 – 24 years.

### *Family Structure*

Census 2016 illustrates the diverse composition of families in County Donegal. In 2016, 12.2% of households in Donegal or 7,120 households were headed by 'one parent' and the vast majority, 86% or 6,122 were one parent mothers. The number of one parent households in Donegal declined by 4.6% or 342 people over the period 2011 – 2016 census. During the period 2011-2016 Donegal experienced an 11% increase in the number of households comprising of cohabiting couples, from 3,247 to 3,603. This equated to 6.2 % of all households. There were children in 28,619 households (49% of all households). Table 2 shows households with children by type of family composition.

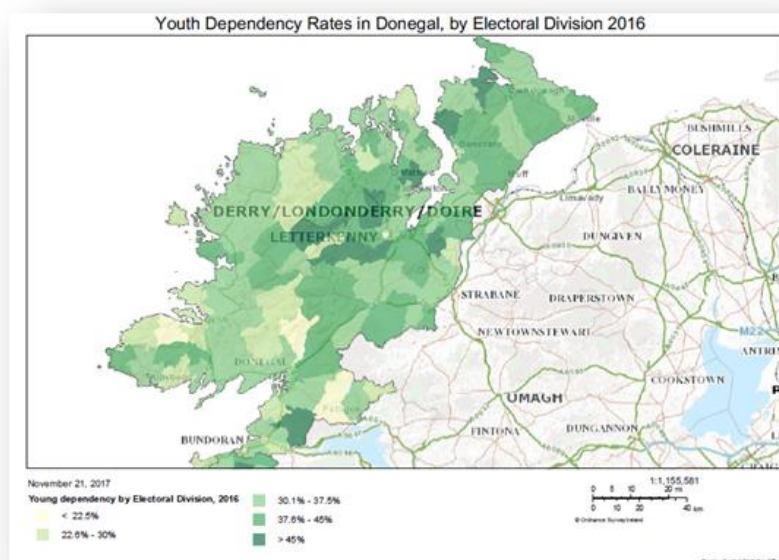
<b>Table 2: Family Composition</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Donegal</b>
<b>All persons in private households with children</b>	3,159,982	109,917
<b>Married couple with children</b>	68.8%	71.6%
<b>Cohabiting couple with children</b>	8.4%	7.3%
<b>One parent mother with children</b>	13.1%	14.0%
<b>One parent father with children</b>	2.0%	2.2%
<b>Married couple with children and other persons</b>	4.6%	2.9%
<b>Cohabiting couple with children and other persons</b>	0.7%	0.3%
<b>One parent mother with children and other persons</b>	2.0%	1.4%
<b>One parent father with children and other persons</b>	0.4%	0.2%

<sup>10</sup> CHO1 Child Health Profile 2018

**Table 3: Children and Young People Age Profile of Population<sup>11</sup> 2016**

Age Range	Donegal	% County Population
0-24	53,449	33.6%
0-4	10,776	6.8%
5-9	12,445	7.8%
10-14	11,821	7.4%
15-19	10,857	6.8%
20-24	7,550	4.7%

The youth dependency ratio is the number of young people aged 0 - 14 as a percentage of the population of working age, as shown on the map (Figure 9) 'Youth Dependency Rates in Donegal, by Electoral Division 2016'. It illustrates higher concentrations of young people towards the north east of the county which corresponds with stronger urban structure and weaker concentrations towards the North West of the county. Donegal's geographical context has been central to the evolution of a unique Gaeltacht and Island culture.

**Figure 9**

*Population of the Gaeltacht Areas* Donegal's Gaeltacht is located mainly in the west of the county and experienced a population decrease of -5.6% over the period 2011-2016. There are 15,879 Irish Speakers, aged 3 years and over, in Donegal's Gaeltacht (Decline of 743 persons). In this area, Irish is a living language with 30% or 4,771 persons speaking Irish daily outside of the educational systems

<sup>11</sup> CSO (2016)



or accessing a wide range of services including children and young people's services through Irish in 2016 compared to 5,514 or 32% in 2011.

<b>Table 4: Population of the Gaeltacht Areas</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>% Chg</b>
<b>County Donegal</b>	24,744	23,346	-5.6%
<b>All Gaeltacht Areas</b>	100,716	99,617	-1.1%

#### *Population of the inhabited Islands off Donegal Coast 2011-2016*

There were 666 persons living on the 12 inhabited islands off Donegal in 2016, decreasing by -14.9% from 2011 – 2016. Árainn Mhór Island and Toraigh Island account for 88% of the population.

<b>Table 5: Population of the Islands off Donegal Coast</b>	<b>2011</b>		<b>2016</b>	
<b>Total Population</b>	783		666	
	<b>Árainn Mhór</b>	<b>Toraigh</b>	<b>Árainn Mhór</b>	<b>Toraigh</b>
<b>All Ages</b>	514	144	469	119
<b>0-18 years</b>	131	24	104	27
<b>19-30 years</b>	28	25	28	13
<b>31 – 40 years</b>	59	18	33	22
<b>41 -50 years</b>	70	25	73	15
<b>51 -55 years</b>	21	14	30	9
<b>56 years +</b>	205	38	201	33

#### *Population of Inishowen Peninsula<sup>12</sup>*

Inishowen is the most northerly part of Donegal, and of Ireland. Inishowen has 25.47% of the total County Population of Donegal. Inishowen has a particularly young population with the proportion within the 0-14 years' cohort with 9,711 young people in this category (23.95%) exceeding that of both the County and the State. 29.94% of the population is 18 and under and a further 5,811 (14.33%) are over 65. Inishowen has a high dependency ratio, those aged under 15 years and 65 years and over represents 38.28% of the Inishowen Population. In the 15-24 age group Inishowen is in line with the county and the State. However, in the 25- 44 age group, the situation compared to the State is reversed and Inishowen lags behind by 3.6% with 25.92% in this age range (it is 29.5% for the State). A significant cohort of the population are in the 65+ category, with 1,214 people over 80 years of age. Almost 11% of families consist of retired people. The most significant type of household in Inishowen is the married couple with children at 35% of all households, followed by one person households at 25.6%. 11% of all households are headed by a lone parent.

<sup>12</sup> Census 2016 data and data gathered as part of Inishowen Development Partnership Strategy Consultation 2019

*Resident Population by Place of Birth and Ethnicity*

In 2016, 95% of Donegal's usual resident population or 148,710 persons were born in Ireland, Northern Ireland, England, Wales or Scotland compared to 89% in the State. 5% of the population (7,459) were born outside of the island of Ireland or the United Kingdom and the top 3 countries were Poland (1,858 persons); United States (976 persons) and India (517 persons). The top 5 growing communities were Indian, Pakistani, Romanian, Croatian and Afghanistan.

<b>Table 6: Resident Population by Place of Birth 2016</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Donegal</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>All countries</b>	4,689,921		156,169	
<b>Ireland - county of usual residence</b>	2,891,726	61.66%	110,424	70.71%
<b>Ireland - county other than county of usual residence</b>	987,789	21.06%	12,805	8.20%
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	57,389	1.22%	12,639	8.09%
<b>England and Wales</b>	203,173	4.33%	8,102	5.19%
<b>Scotland</b>	16,644	0.35%	4,740	3.04%
<b>Other Nationalities</b>	533,200	11.37%	7,459	4.78%

A higher percentage (89.5%) of the population in Co. Donegal identified as White Irish than in the State (82.2%).

<b>Table 7: Population Usually Resident and Present 2011 to 2016</b>				
<b>All ages in the State</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
<b>White Irish</b>	3821995	84.5%	3854226	82.2%
<b>White Irish Traveller</b>	29495	0.7%	30987	0.7%
<b>Any other White background</b>	412975	9.1%	446727	9.5%
<b>Black/Black Irish - African</b>	58697	1.3%	57850	1.2%
<b>Black/Black Irish – Any other black background</b>	6381	0.1%	6789	0.1%
<b>Asian or Asian Irish - Chinese</b>	17832	0.4%	19447	0.4%
<b>Asian/Asian Irish – any other Asian background</b>	19447	1.5%	79273	1.7%
<b>Other including mixed background</b>	40724	0.1%	40724	1.5%
<b>Not stated</b>	70324	1.6%	124019	2.6%
<b>Total ethnic or cultural backgrounds</b>	45,25281		46,89921	
<b>All ages in Donegal</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
<b>White Irish</b>	43850	90.59%	140196	89.48%
<b>White Irish Traveller</b>	724	0.46%	588	0.38%
<b>Any other White background</b>	9683	6.10%	8814	5.63%
<b>Black/Black Irish - African</b>	843	0.53%	569	0.36%
<b>Black/Black Irish – Any other black background</b>	101	0.06%	109	0.07%

Asian /Asian Irish - Chinese	196	0.12%	216	0.14%
Asian/Asian Irish – any other Asian background	1103	0.69%	1311	0.84%
Other including mixed background	716	0.45%	1357	0.87%
Not stated	1576	0.99%	3515	2.24%
<b>Total ethnic or cultural backgrounds</b>	<b>158,7921</b>		<b>156675</b>	

(CSO Table E8001:)

There was a -19.3% decline in the population of *Irish Travellers* in Co. Donegal from 2011 to 2016.

<b>Table 8: Traveller population<sup>13</sup> 2016</b>	<b>Donegal 2016</b>	<b>State 2016</b>
Traveller population (all) rate per 1,000 of population	3.8	6.6
Traveller population (all) percentage of population in county	726/159,217/0.4%	30,987/4,761,865/0.6%
No. of Traveller children (-18 years) in 2016 (Designated PHN)	462	30,497

The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government facilitates the Annual Estimate of Traveller families nationally at the end of November every year. The most recent estimate by the Donegal County Council Traveller Accommodation Programme<sup>14</sup> at the end of November 2018 outlines that 287 Traveller families were resident in County Donegal at that time. In comparison to neighbouring Counties (as per most up-to-date information from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government), Donegal has a significantly larger number of Traveller families residing in its functional area with Sligo 139, Leitrim 68, Cavan 141 and Monaghan 161. The Donegal Travellers Project/Donegal Intercultural Platform estimate that there are between 250 – 350 Traveller families living in Donegal.<sup>15</sup> A breakdown of the various accommodation types of the families who were residing in the County at the end of November 2018 is as follows:

<b>Table 9: Number of Traveller Families Residing in Co. Donegal by Accommodation Type NOV 2019</b>	
Standard Local Authority Social Housing	176
Private Rented Accommodation	36
HAP	30
Halting Site	12
Sharing with relatives	16
Roadside	9
Permanent Halt	4
Hospital Care/ Emergency Accommodation	4

<sup>13</sup> HSE, Designated PHN for Travellers, (2016) (email correspondence)

<sup>14</sup> Donegal County Council Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024

<sup>15</sup> DTP/DIP Alternative Report November 2019

Donegal has two halting sites at Big Isle, Manorcunningham and Ballintra. Two Traveller-specific group housing schemes are located in Letterkenny with six permanent halts located in Letterkenny (4), Kerrykeel (1) and Ardara (1).

The *Roma Community* in Ireland consists of persons from a range of European countries, including Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland and the Czech Republic (Czechia). The Donegal Travellers Project/Donegal Intercultural Platform estimate that there are between 40 – 50 Roma families living in Donegal.<sup>16</sup>

Currently there is no census category for *Middle Eastern* population. Under the Refugee Resettlement Programme, 39 families have resettled in Donegal. This number comprises of 199 individuals (88 adults and 111 children). 37 families are Syrian (all speak Arabic). 2 families are Iraqi (do not speak Arabic, 1 family speaks Kurdish Sorani and the other Kurdish Kurmanji).<sup>17</sup> These families have been resettled in a phased basis in different areas of the county including Letterkenny, Carndonagh, Ballybofey and Stranorlar with children attending local pre-schools, primary schools and secondary schools. As well as support with day to day issues, the main challenges facing families relate to transport and language. A large number of men on the programme are interested in setting up their own business. There are 77 individuals currently (as at June 2020<sup>18</sup>) on the resettlement programme residing in Bunrana, Donegal Town and Letterkenny.

**Table 10: Numbers on the Refugee Resettlement Programme in Co. Donegal June 2020**

	Adults	Children	Total
<b>Bunrana</b>	18	20	38
<b>Donegal Town</b>	7	6	13
<b>Letterkenny</b>	15	11	26
<b>Total</b>	40	37	77

<sup>16</sup> DTP/DIP Alternative Report November 2019

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.dldc.org/programmes/donegal-refugee-resettlement-project/> 22/6/2020

<sup>18</sup> Personal correspondence from Resettlement Support Worker 30/6/2020

## Health of Children and Young People in Donegal

Of the 51,755 Children and Young People aged 0-24 years of age in County Donegal whose general level of health was stated in 2016, 1,096 (or 2.1%) stated as 'fair, bad or very bad'. The comparable figure for 2011 was 998 children and young people. While 98% (50,659) general health was stated as 'good or very good' and the comparable figure for 2011 was 54,598.

		All ages	0 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 -19	20 -24
<b>All</b>	State	1,583,004	331,515	355,561	319,476	302,816	273,636
	Donegal	53,449	10,776	12,445	11,821	10,857	7,550
<b>Very good</b>	State	1,270,788	268,763	298,302	269,112	239,203	195,408
	Donegal	42,408	8,661	10,272	9,729	8,465	5,281
<b>Good</b>	State	221,666	37,743	40,744	36,738	47,095	59,346
	Donegal	8,251	1,371	1,619	1,645	1,843	1,773
<b>Fair</b>	State	26,555	3,360	4,080	3,733	6,482	8,900
	Donegal	977	126	155	169	252	275
<b>Bad</b>	State	2,963	439	441	412	729	942
	Donegal	91	6	16	10	30	29
<b>Very Bad</b>	State	833	196	149	109	185	194
	Donegal	28	7	6	0	7	8
<b>Not stated</b>	State	60,199	21,014	11,845	9,372	9,122	8,846
	Donegal	1,694	605	377	268	260	184

### Births, Infant Mortality and Young Mothers

There were 1,864 babies born in County Donegal in 2017. In 2016, the percentage of children born with low birthweight in Donegal (4.7) was one of the lowest in the country (5.5 nationally).

	Donegal		State	
	2017	2019	2017	2019
<b>Babies born number</b>	1864	1817	62,053	
<b>Babies born Rate</b>	11.6		12.9	

	Donegal Number	State Number
<b>No. of infant mortalities</b>	10	188
<b>No. of neonatal mortalities</b>	9	140
<b>Rate of infant mortality per 1,000 live births</b>	5.4	2.8
<b>Rate of child mortality per 1,000 live births</b>	4.2	2.4

Donegal had a marginally higher infant mortality rate than the State in 2016 at 3.7 infant mortalities per 1000 of live births compared to 3.3 in the State. In addition, Donegal had a marginally higher rate of neonatal mortalities per 1000 live births at 2.6 compared to 2.4 in the State. The child mortality rate in Donegal (4.2) was higher than the 2017 national average (2.4), The 5 year standardised child mortality rate (2013-2017) in Donegal (2.2) was lower than the national rate (2.4) over the same period.

**Table 14: Age profile of mothers in Donegal at time of 2019 child's birth<sup>19</sup>**

Under 20 years	10
20-24 years	141
25-29 years	334
30-39 years	1130
40+ years	202

### Health Protection of Children and Young People

<b>Table 15: Vaccination</b>	<b>Number Eligible</b>	<b>Number vaccinated</b>	<b>% Vaccinated Donegal</b>	<b>% Vaccinated State</b>	<b>Time period</b>
MMR Vaccination: one dose at 24 months	1978	1696	85.7		Born 2017 reported 2019
6-in-1 Vaccination: three doses at 24 months	1978	1791	90.5		Born 2017 reported 2019
HPV Vaccination: third dose (1st year girls)					
MMR Vaccination Junior Infants	2216	1977	89.2		Born 01 Sept 2012 to August 31st 2013, reported 2019

### Breast Feeding

Breastfeeding rates in Donegal have gone down over the last number of years. In 2019 Donegal had a lower percentage of mothers breastfeeding at the time of first contact with the PHN than the State (42.6% compared to 58%) and much less mothers in Donegal continued to breastfeed at time of 3 months contact with the PHN than the State (24.3% compared to 42.6%).

<b>Table 16: Breastfeeding Rates 2016 and 2019</b>	<b>Donegal</b>		<b>State</b>	
	2016	2019	2016	2019
<b>Time of 1<sup>st</sup> contact by Public Health Nurse</b>	51.4	42.6	56.8	58.0
<b>Time of 3 month contact by Public Health Nurse</b>	41.8	24.3	38.8	42.6

<sup>19</sup> HSE, Child Health Personal Health Record System (2016) (email correspondence)  
Child Health Profile 2018

<b>Table 17: Breastfeeding Rates at Hospital Discharge</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Exclusive</b>	<b>Combined</b>
<b>2015 Donegal</b>	42.5	34.2	8.3
<b>2016 Donegal</b>	44.9	37.5	7.4

### *Children and Young People with Illness or Disabilities*

Census 2016 reveals that there were 22,955 people with a physical/intellectual disability in County Donegal in 2016 of which 16% or 3,777 were children or young people aged 0-24 years. 20% of all males with a disability and 13% of all females with a disability in Donegal were aged 0-24 years. There were 250 more children and young people with a disability in 2016 than in 2011.

In 2020 the Autism Service, identified 694 children aged 6-18 years who had a confirmed diagnosis of ASD. This number included children that have been referred to the service and who may not be receiving a service, but they still have a confirmed diagnosis of ASD.<sup>20</sup>

### **Hospital Discharges for Injuries in Children (0-14 years)**

In 2017, rates of hospital discharges caused by injuries in children aged 0-14 years were higher in Donegal 109, than the national average of 82 (per 10,000 0-14 year olds).

### **Hospital Emergency Admissions for Asthma (0-18 years)**

Donegal had the highest rate of emergency hospital admissions for asthma in children in the country and this was significantly higher than the national average (412/100,000 vs 134/100,000 nationally).<sup>21</sup>

### **Health and Risk Behaviour of Young People in County Donegal**

The Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) collects data on key indicators of health, health attitudes, and health behaviours, as well as the context of health for young people. The most recent HBSC Ireland study was conducted in 2018 and included 15,557 school children from 3rd class in primary school to 5th year in post-primary school. Collectively, 255 primary and post-primary schools across Ireland participated in this study. The following data presents some indicators of health and well-being in young people from Donegal, compared to the same findings from other counties of Republic of Ireland (ROI). See Appendix 5 for full report.<sup>22</sup> Within tables showing overall findings and those broken down to age groups, prevalence data are presented for young people from Donegal ( $n = 414$ , 3.52%) compared to national data, Donegal included ( $n = 11,758$ )<sup>23</sup>.

<sup>20</sup> Personal communication Donegal Early Intervention Team 16 September 2020

<sup>21</sup> CHO1 Child Health Profile 2018

<sup>22</sup> Short Report: Health and Well-being of young people in Donegal András Kóltó, Divya Ravikumar and Saoirse Nic Gabhainn *HBSC Ireland, Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland Galway* June 2020

<sup>23</sup> In interpreting the data presented below, it is important to recognise that the sample was drawn to be representative at a national level and not a county level.

<b>Table 18:</b>		
<b>HBSC Survey</b>	<b>% Donegal</b>	<b>% National sample</b>
<b>Not having breakfast on weekdays</b>		
Overall	16.1	12.3
10-14 years	11.9	9.6
15-17 years	20.5	17.8
<b>Participating in vigorous exercise four or more times per week</b>		
Overall	42.9	49.3
10-14 years	52.3	54.6
15-17 years	33.3	38.7
<b>Ever smoking tobacco</b>		
Overall	7.9	10.6
10-14 years	2.4	4.1
15-17 years	13.6	23.9
<b>Ever having been 'really drunk'</b>		
Overall	17.6	16.5
10-14 years	3.3	4.7
15-17 years	32.7	40.7
<b>Agree that in their school children take part in making the rules</b>		
Overall	21.4	28.5
10-14 years	26.1	34.8
15-17 years	16.6	15.7
<b>High life satisfaction</b>		
Overall	75.0	73.3
10-14 years	83.9	78.2
15-17 years	65.8	63.5
<b>Feel that their body is too thin or too fat</b>		
Overall	48.2	43.3
10-14 years	42.3	39.1
15-17 years	54.4	51.5
<b>Having a disability or chronic condition</b>		
Overall	24.6	21.1
10-14 years	25.4	20.4
15-17 years	23.9	22.5
<b>Ever being bullied at school in the past couple of months</b>		
Overall	27.5	30.0
10-14 years	28.5	30.8
15-17 years	26.5	28.5
<b>The area in which they live is safe</b>		
Overall	94.8	89.4
10-14 years	96.6	90.3
15-17 years	92.9	87.7

<b>Table 18 cont.:</b>		
<b>HBSC Survey</b>	<b>% Donegal</b>	<b>% National sample</b>
<b>There are good places to spend free time (e.g. leisure centre, parks, shops)</b>		
Overall	52.1	63.9
10-14 years	63.2	70.2
15-17 years	40.5	51.4



<b>Their friends try to help them</b>		
Overall	65.3	70.9
10-14 years	68.6	71.6
15-17 years	61.9	69.3
<b>Comfortable with talking about their sexuality</b>		
15-17 years	73.2	80.8
<b>Had sexual intercourse</b>		
15-17 years	21.1	25.0

### **Young People Mental Health and Deliberate Self Harm**

In Donegal in 2017, there were 51 hospital treated episodes of deliberate self-harm for young people age < 16 - 17 years and 96 in the 18 - 24 age category.

<b>Table 19: Hospital Treated Episodes of Self-harm 2017 Letterkenny University Hospital</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
<b>&lt; 16 years</b>	10	16
<b>16-17 years</b>	7	18
<b>18-24 years</b>	46	50

<b>Table 20: Recommended Next Care by Hospital 2017 (all ages)</b>	<b>Letterkenny University Hospital (n=391)</b>	<b>State</b>
<b>Admitted (general and psychiatric)</b>	55.0%	31.6%
<b>Patient would not allow admission</b>	0.5%	0.6%
<b>Left before recommendation</b>	6.4%	12%
<b>Not admitted</b>	38.1%	55.9%

<b>Table 21: Statistics from Jigsaw Donegal</b>	<b>1/1/13 -31/12/19</b>
<b>Referrals</b>	1592
<b>Male</b>	37.2%
<b>Female</b>	62.8%
<b>Top 5 presenting issues</b>	1 Anxiety 2 Low Mood 3 Sleep Issues 4 Stress 5 Family Problems
<b>Top 3 age at entry to service</b>	1 16 years (466) 2 17 years (444) 3 15 years (380)
<b>Referral pathway</b>	1 Parent 2 Self 3 GP

Jigsaw Donegal provides a free and confidential support service for young people aged 15–25.

## Children and Young People's Welfare

48 children were listed as 'active' on the Child Protection Notification System at the end of 2018, down from 60 in 2017 and 50 in 2016. Numbers on CPNS had decreased to 34 at the beginning of 2020 but had increased to 61 by the end of September 2020. Much of the increase was a result of children listed in other jurisdictions or other parts of Ireland moving into the Area. The main concerns resulting in referrals to Tusla remains alcohol abuse, domestic violence and deficits in parenting skills. Other significant factors are issues to do with child mental health and relationship difficulties within the home. Alcohol abuse and domestic violence remain the core reasons resulting in children requiring alternative care.

**Table 22: Child Protection and Welfare Referrals to Tusla in Donegal** <sup>24</sup>

2019					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
<b>Total Number of Referrals Child Abuse/Welfare</b>	294	450	343	237	1324
<b>Total Referrals – Number that had a preliminary enquiry</b>	293	449	339	236	1317
<b>Total Referrals – Number that required an Initial Assessment after preliminary enquiry</b>	42	70	39	44	195

**Table 23: Child Protection and Welfare Referrals to Tusla in Donegal** <sup>25</sup>

	2016			2017			2018		
	Child Protection	Child Welfare	Total	Child Protection	Child Welfare	Total	Child Protection	Child Welfare	Total
<b>Total Number of Referrals received during reporting period</b>	249	673	922	468	1,001	1,469	314	633	947
<b>Number of referrals received that requiring an initial assessment following a preliminary enquiry</b>	125	183	308	53	130	183	16	8	24

<sup>24</sup> data.tusla.ie and Tusla Childcare Information System

<sup>25</sup> Tusla Donegal Childcare Information System

	<b>Count</b>
Parents: (Children of parents) who misuse drugs or alcohol	209
Family /Household (Children of Families) where domestic violence is a factor	136
Parents: (Children of Parents) who lack parenting skills	119
Family /Household (Children of Families) with significant relationship difficulties	111
Child with behavioral problems	63
Parents: (Children of Parents) with mental health problems	47
Child with emotional problems	42
Child who is abusing drugs/alcohol	16
Family /Household (Children of Families) with a known abuser	15
Parents: (Children of Parents) whose accommodation is unstable or unsuitable	<b>13</b>

## Children in Care

From the period 2017 – 2019, the number of children in care remained between 200 and 220. The majority of these children are based with general foster parents (between 78 – 80% in each of the three years. Under 20% of children in care are fostered with relatives; 16% in 2017, 15% in 2018 and 17% in 2019. The number of children requiring residential care has increased from 7 to 10 within the last three years.

Donegal	Dec 2017	Dec 2018	Dec 2019
<b>Residential Care</b>	7	8	10
<b>Foster Care General</b>	158	171	163
<b>Foster Care Relative</b>	31	31	35
<b>Other</b>	4	4	2
<b>Total Number of Children in Care</b>	200	214	210

## Child and Family Support<sup>28</sup>

### *Child and Family Support Networks / Meitheal*

The full complement of Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) has now been established in Donegal with every part of the county being served by a CFSN. Each Network has a membership of approximately 20-25, all of whom work to achieve outcomes for children and families.

The number of requests for Meitheal multi-agency processes with children / young people more than quadrupled in the period 2017 – 2019 (from 21 to 96). There has been a drop in 2020 figures<sup>29</sup> due to the COVID crisis but a return to face-to-face work with children and families is likely to see an end of year return to normal levels of Meitheal requests. As expected, the volume of Meitheal requests grew throughout the county in parallel with the development of the CFSN infrastructure. The primary source of Meitheal requests in County Donegal continues to be through direct requests from practitioners working with children, young people and families.

<sup>26</sup> Tulsa Donegal Childcare Information System

<sup>27</sup> data.tusla.ie

<sup>28</sup> data.tusla.ie and Tusla Childcare Information System

<sup>29</sup> as of August 2020

<i>Table 26: Meitheals in Donegal</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
<b>New Requests</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Open (from previous year)</b>	3	13	47	73 (total)
<b>Closed</b>	18	42	44	2

<i>Table 27: Meitheal requests per CFSN area</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
<b>North Central</b>	6	13	35	8
<b>North West</b>	2	3	8	0
<b>Inishowen</b>	2	16	14	2
<b>South Central</b>	8	16	28	7
<b>South West</b>	3	9	11	5

<i>Table 28: Top 5 Primary Presenting Issues 2018 - 2020</i>	<i>Top 5 Secondary Presenting Issues 2018 - 2020</i>
<b>Emotional problems</b>	Parenting support
<b>Behavioural problems</b>	Educational issue (e.g. attendance)
<b>Mental health issue</b>	Behavioural problems
<b>Educational issue (e.g. attendance)</b>	Social isolation
<b>Financial/Housing difficulties</b>	Family issues/Emotional problems

## Vulnerable Young People

### Young Carers

The number and rate of children who provide regular unpaid personal help to a family member or friend with a long-term illness, health problem or disability in County Donegal continues to be higher than in the State.

<i>Table 29: Young Carers as percent of Population.</i>		<i>All</i>	<i>0-9 yrs</i>	<i>10-14 yrs</i>	<i>15-19 yrs</i>	<i>20-24 yrs</i>
<b>2011</b>	State	4.1	0.3	0.8	1.5	1.9
	Donegal	4.6	0.3	0.8	1.7	2.2
<b>2016</b>	State	4.1	0.2	0.7	1.4	1.9
	Donegal	4.5	0.2	0.8	1.5	2.2

### Young People's Involvement in Crime, Youth Referral Statistics for the Donegal Division

The total number of referrals relating to young people living in the Donegal Division catchment area of An Garda Síochána decreased from 619 in 2017 to 435 in 2018 but rose again to 682 in 2019. Public order offences were the biggest number of referrals in 2017 but were overtaken by theft and related offences in 2019. Controlled drug offences have increased from 15 in 2017 to 32 in 2019.

<i>Table 30: Number of Referrals per ICCS Group in 2017, 2018 and 2019 relating to young persons living in the Donegal Division catchment area</i>			
<i>ICCS Group / Sub-Type / Type of Incident for Each Referral</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>
<b>13 - Public Order and other Social Code Offences</b>	206	109	180
<b>1312 - Public order offences</b>	110	50	80
<b>1313 - Drunkenness offences</b>	47	49	52
<b>08 - Theft and Related Offences</b>	109	101	114

14 - Road and Traffic Offences (NEC)	84	32	62
03 - Attempts/Threats to Murder, Assaults, Harassments and Related Offences	57	65	67
12 - Damage to Property and to the Environment	51	23	57
04 - Dangerous or Negligent Acts	29	49	38
10 - Controlled Drug Offences	15	18	32
All Other	68	38	132
Total Number of Referrals	619	435	682
Total Number of Incidents – relating to the Referrals above	520	365	568
<i>* These referrals relate to young persons with an address in the Donegal Division. Offences linked to these individuals may have occurred anywhere in the country</i>			

### Young people involved in Garda Diversion Project (GDYP)

The numbers of young people or under 18 years referred to the probation services from either Circuit or District Court is low as most referrals go to the Garda Diversion Projects. The figures are much greater under 24 years. These figures are not available locally. The numbers of young people engaged in the GDYP was 92 in 2018 and 108 in 2019. (Figure 10 and 11)

Figure 10

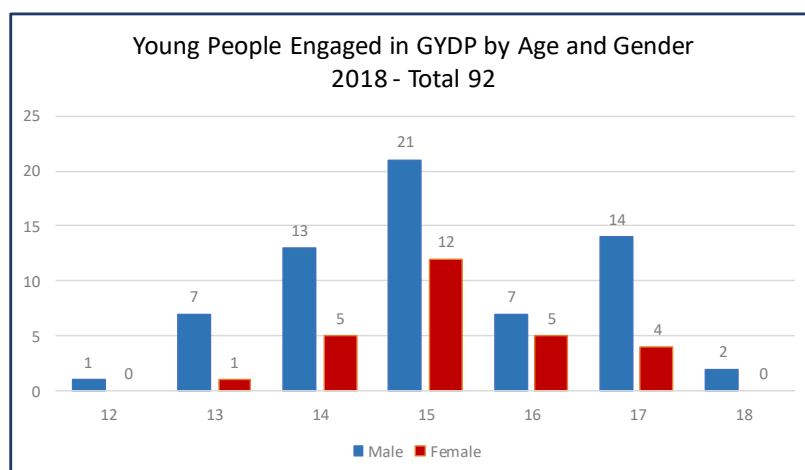
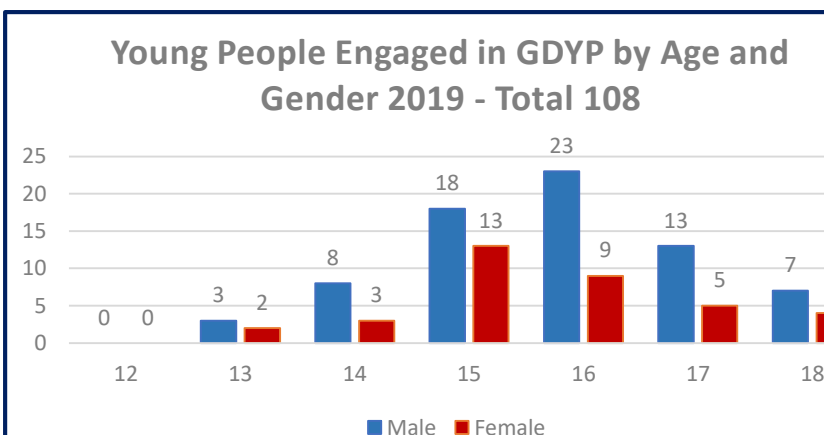


Figure 11



### Housing and Homelessness in Donegal

In 2019 346 households with children qualified for social housing support. In 13% of households qualifying for social housing support, the main applicant was under 25 years old. This compares to 8% under 25 years old in the State. 19% of main applicants who qualified for housing support in Donegal were in employment compared to 27% in the State.

Figure 12

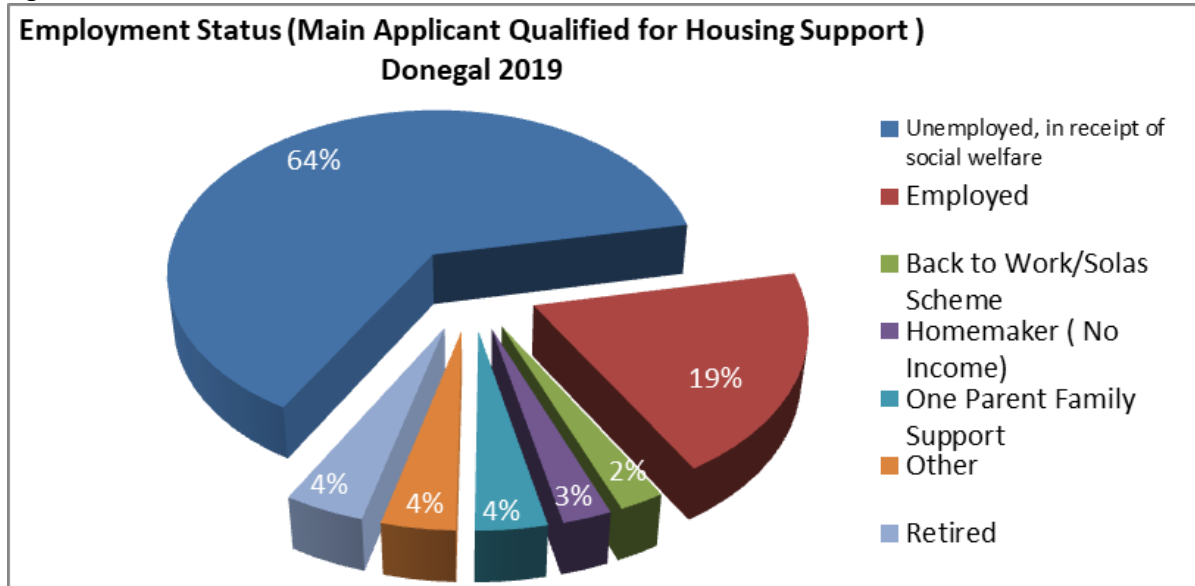
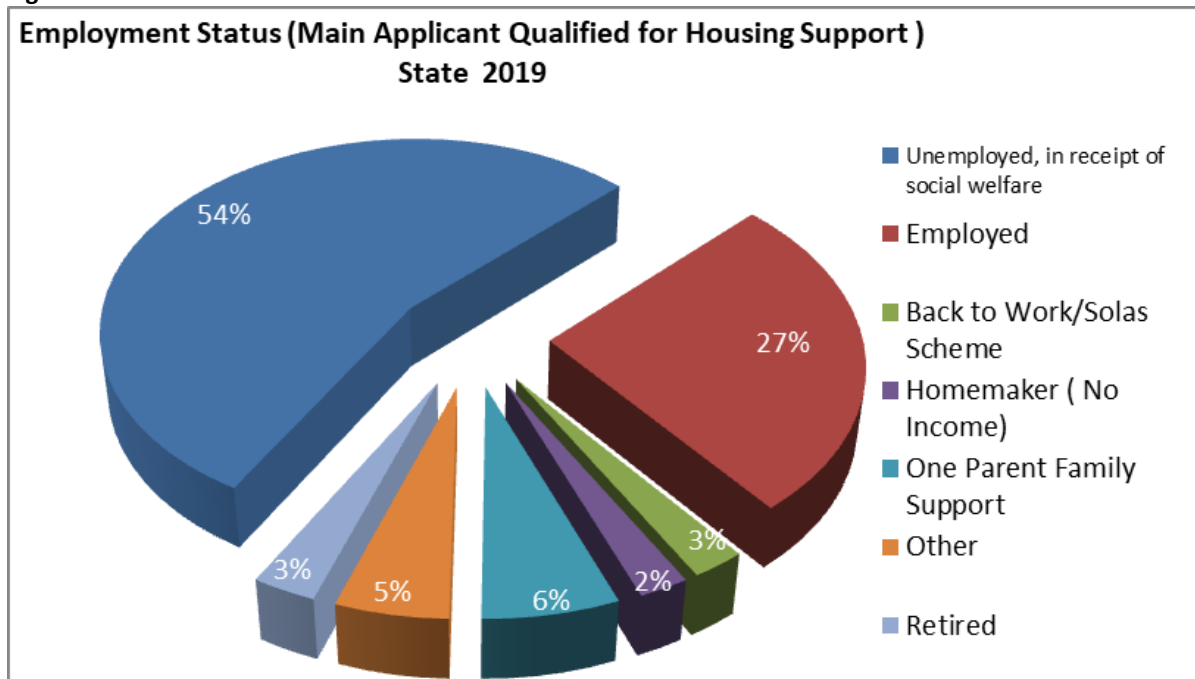


Figure 13



The main need for social housing support in Donegal was unsuitable accommodation – household circumstances.

Figure 14

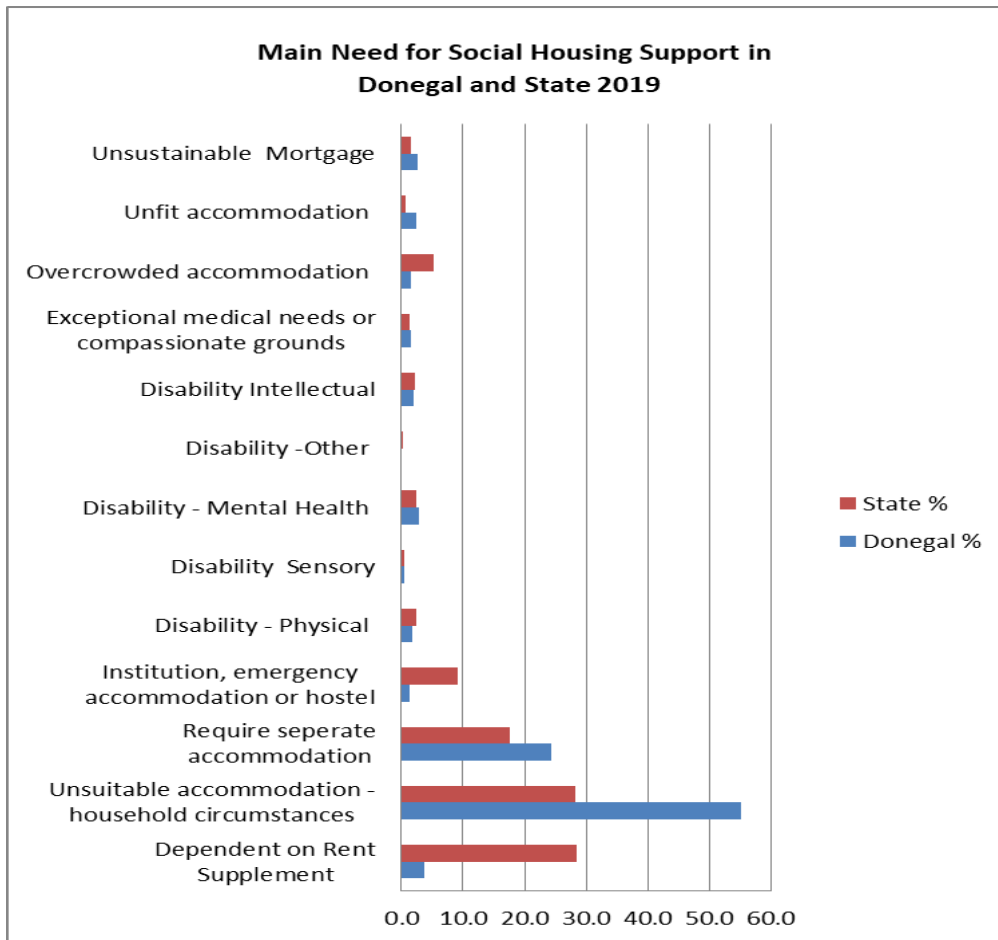
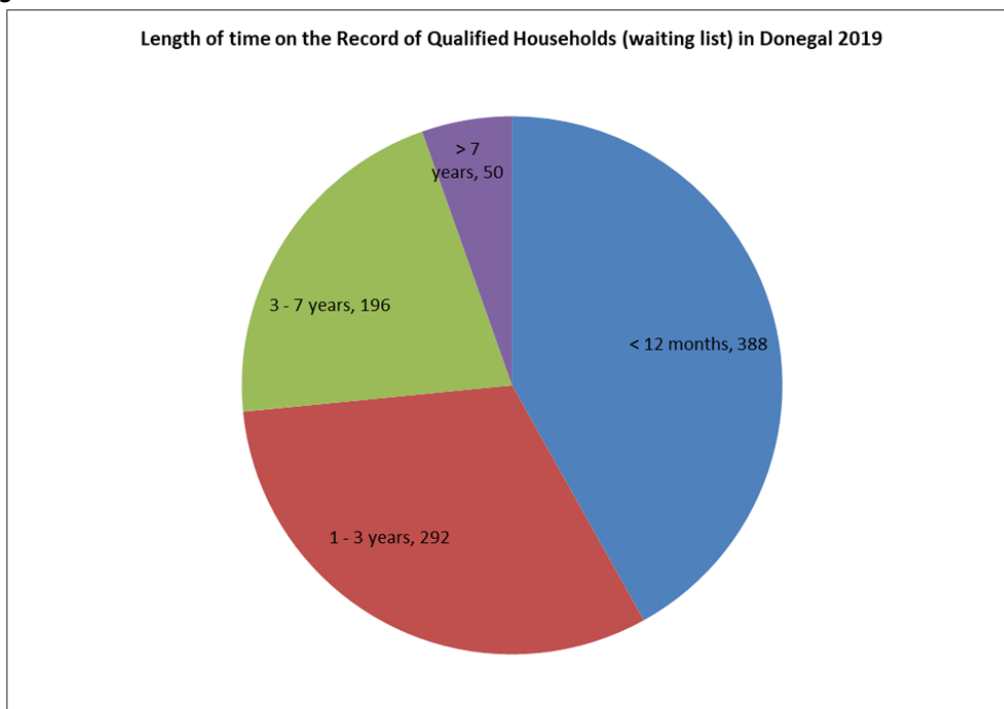


Figure 15



**Table 31: Homeless Clients for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017<sup>30</sup>**

Service	Visits to Service	Accommodated
Donegal County Council	32	25 (18 as a result of flooding in Inishowen)
SVP Hostel	10	18
White Oaks	29	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>82</b>

**Table 32:  
Breakdown of specific accommodation requirements in Donegal**

Year	General, (no specific req)	Enduring sensory, mental intellectual issue	physical, Homeless	Traveller	Aged 65 yrs or more	Total
<b>2016</b>	1,213	26	2	3	23	1,267
<b>2017</b>	855	28	5	1	14	903
<b>2018</b>	766	25	4	1	15	811
<b>2019</b>	879	26	6	3	12	926

Homelessness as a main need for social housing support has increased in Donegal over the last number of years but the figures are still quite low. However, numbers of homeless clients recorded by homeless services is higher than this.

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<sup>30</sup>Donegal County Council



## Educational Opportunities for Children, Young People and their Families

### Early Childhood Care and Education

**Table 33: Early Childhood Care and Education – 2018 – 2019**

<b>Total number attending</b>	7030
<b>No. of children availing of ECCE (free pre-School year)</b>	3661
<b>No. of childcare services</b>	155

In 2017/2018, Donegal had the highest vacancy rate in early years' services at 13% compared to a national rate of 5%. Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) programme is primarily aimed at supporting parents on a low income to avail of reduced childcare costs. Counties with larger population centres tend to have the highest numbers of registrations for CCS. However, Donegal has been identified as a 'surprising outlier' recording 7% of registrations (comparable to Cork).

The average hourly wages in the early years' sector was second lowest in the country in Donegal at €11.29 per hour. The annual staff turnover rate for staff in the early years sector in Donegal was one of the highest in Ireland at 34% compared to 25% nationally.<sup>31</sup>

### Educational Attainment

In Donegal, there were 124,150 people aged 15 years and over in 2016, of which 104,708 had finished their full time education<sup>32</sup> and 19,422 had not. Table 36 highlights that 22% of our population (21,333), who have finished their full time education left with no formal or primary education compared to 13% in the State and these figures are higher for Males at 24.9% than Females at 19%. However, compared with comparable figures for 2011, it illustrates that this figure has reduced by 5,028 people. 33.4% of the population, 15 years and over in Donegal (32,552), who have finished their full time education did so with a Higher Educational Qualification' compared to 42% in the State. Females in Donegal outperformed Males in terms of higher educational attainment at 37.5% and 19.3% respectively. The number attaining higher educational attainment increased by 3,794 persons<sup>33</sup> over the 2011 – 2016.

Over the twenty year period 1999 to 2019<sup>34</sup> there was an increase of 27.8% in enrolments in primary schools (mainstream and special) nationally. Donegal was the only area that saw a decrease (-0.7%) in that period. Enrolments are projected to fall over the coming fifteen years.

<sup>31</sup> Early Years Sector Profile Report 2017-2018, Pobal

<sup>32</sup> This figure includes 7,340 persons who did not state their highest level of educational attainment. Percentages as calculated in this factsheet exclude that non stated category.

<sup>33</sup> Table 36 illustrates that 32,552 persons in Donegal had attained a third level education in 2016 which equates to 33.4% of the population aged 15 years and over. The corresponding figure for 2011 was 28, 758 persons or 28.5% of the population.

<sup>34</sup> Department of Education and Science Statistical Bulletin – July 2020 Overview of Education 1999 – 2019

<b>Table 34: Highest level of education 15yrs and over</b>						
	<b>State, 2016</b>			<b>Donegal, 2016</b>		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
<b>Total education ceased and not ceased</b>	3,755,313	1,839,849	1,915,464	124,150	60,966	63,184
<b>No formal education</b>	52,214	28,296	23,918	3,869	2,204	1,665
<b>Primary</b>	334,284	175,603	158,681	17,464	9,717	7,747
<b>Lower secondary</b>	449,766	243,128	206,638	17,594	9,897	7,697
<b>Upper secondary</b>	573,643	268,675	304,968	17,393	8,474	8,919
<b>Technical/vocational</b>	271,532	122,938	148,594	8,496	3,575	4,921
<b>Advanced certificate/completed apprenticeship</b>	182,318	119,588	62,730	5,284	3,214	2,070
<b>Higher certificate</b>	153,351	66,290	87,061	5,023	2,067	2,956
<b>Ordinary bachelor degree/professional qualification or both</b>	237,117	106,692	130,425	6,699	2,668	4,031
<b>Honours bachelor degree/professional qualification or both</b>	331,293	147,460	183,833	8,529	3,312	5,217
<b>Postgraduate diploma or degree</b>	284,107	119,676	164,431	6,543	2,480	4,063
<b>Doctorate (Ph.D.)</b>	28,759	16,016	12,743	474	271	203
<b>Not stated</b>	198,668	99,422	99,246	7,340	3,581	3,759
<b>Economic status - total at School, university, etc.</b>	427,128	211,054	216,074	13,329	6,530	6,799
<b>Economic status - other</b>	231,133	115,011	116,122	6,113	2,976	3,137

## Educational Participation

<b>Table 35: National Schools by County 2020</b>		
	<b>State</b>	<b>Donegal</b>
<b>Ordinary National Schools</b>	3,106	174
<b>Ordinary National Schools with Pupils with Special Needs</b>	620	14
<b>Special Schools</b>	134	2
<b>All National Schools</b>	3,240	190

**Table 36:  
National School Pupils by County, School Programme 2020**

	State	Donegal
<b>All first level school programmes</b>		
Pupils in National Schools	567,716	18,789
Classes in National Schools	25,312	882
<b>Pupils with special needs in mainstream national schools</b>		
Pupils in National Schools	6,822	242
Classes in National Schools	1,169	45
<b>Pupils in special national schools</b>		
Pupils in National Schools	8,351	161
Classes in National Schools	1,173	28
<b>All mainstream national school programmes</b>		
Pupils in National Schools	552,543	18,386
Classes in National Schools	22,970	809

**Table 37:  
Second Level Schools and Pupils by County, Type of School, statistical indicator 2020<sup>35</sup>**

		State	Donegal
<b>Secondary schools</b>	Schools providing Second Level Education	381	4
	Pupils receiving Second Level Education	201778	3377
<b>Vocational schools</b>	Schools providing Second Level Education	246	15
	Pupils receiving Second Level Education	108303	5085
<b>Community schools</b>	Schools providing Second Level Education	82	6
	Pupils receiving Second Level Education	53660	3783
<b>Comprehensive schools</b>	Schools providing Second Level Education	14	2
	Pupils receiving Second Level Education	7709	922
<b>Second level education institutions aided by DoES</b>	Schools providing Second Level Education	723	27
	Pupils receiving Second Level Education	371450	13167

### School population, attendance and retention

**Table 38: School population, attendance and retention<sup>36</sup>**

	Donegal	State
<b>Primary School (5-12 years):</b>		
• 2010-2011	19,463	504,267
• 2015-2016	18,936	553,380
• 2016-2017	Not available	557,998
<b>Post-Primary (12-18 years):</b>		
• 2010-2011	13,514	344,931
• 2015-2016	12,675	345,550
• 2016-2017	Not available	351,816

<sup>35</sup> CSO

<sup>36</sup> Tusla AAR

<b>Absenteeism rates (20 days or more): Primary Schools:</b>		
• 2015-2016	7.9%	12.3%
• 2016-2017	7.6%	11.8%
<b>Post-Primary Schools:</b>		
• 2015-2016	17.1%	14.9%
• 2016-2017	22.0%	14.7%
<b>Leaving Certificate retention rates<sup>37</sup> 2012 entry cohort</b>	91.7%	91.5%
<b>% of pop. aged 15+ whose education ceased before the age of 15 years<sup>38</sup></b>	3.9%	3.6%

### School suspension and expulsion rates - Primary and Post-Primary 2016

School suspension rates in Donegal primary Schools decreased slightly in the academic year 2014-2015 from 0.06% compared to 0.09% in the previous year. This was also true for post-primary Schools from a rate of 3.37% compared to 3.56% the previous academic year.

School expulsion rates in Donegal are negligible in primary Schools. In post-primary Schools have seen an decrease in rates from 2014 – 2017 from above the State average to below it.

**Table 39: School suspension and expulsion rates – Primary and Post Primary**

<i>Suspension Rate</i>	<i>Donegal primary</i>	<i>Suspension Rates</i>	<i>Donegal Post-Primary</i>
<b>2013-2014</b>	0.09%	<b>2013-2014</b>	3.56%
<b>2014-2015</b>	0.06%	<b>2014-2015</b>	3.37%
<b>2015-2016</b>	0.16%	<b>2015-2016</b>	3.48%
<b>2016-2017</b>	0.13%	<b>2016-2017</b>	3.86%

**Table 40: School suspension and expulsion rates – Post Primary**

<i>Expulsion rates Donegal Post Primary</i>	<i>Expulsion Rates State Post Primary</i>
<b>2014-2015</b>	0.06% 0.040%
<b>2016-2016</b>	0.04% 0.04%
<b>2016-2017</b>	0.02% 0.048 %

<sup>37</sup> DES

<sup>38</sup> SONC, 2011

### **Programmes for school-age children**

Youthreach is the Department of Further and Higher Education's official education, training and work experience programme for young people who have left school early and who have limited qualifications. Youthreach is managed locally by Donegal Education and Training Board (ETB). There are six centres in County Donegal: Ballyshannon, Buncrana, Glengad, Gortahork, Letterkenny and Lifford. There are 160 places available on the Youthreach programme in County Donegal and it operates a continuous intake policy all year around.

Daybreak is an individually tailored education programme to support young people to remain in education and is led out by the Donegal Youth Service. The programme is delivered in three locations in county Donegal: Letterkenny, Ballybofey and Raphoe. The programme is designed to support students from First Year to Junior Certificate who are at risk of school dropout and who attend the programme on individual days. Referrals are made by schools, social work, EWO, CAMHS, parents or by self-referral. There are 36 places on the Daybreak Programme in County Donegal.

Youthscape is a cross-border, cross-community interventionist programme in which the Donegal Youth Service is also involved. It is funded under the European Union's PEACE IV Programme and is run in partnership with South West College and TIDES TRAINING. Youthscape currently operates in Letterkenny and Ballybofey and supports 14-24 year olds from all backgrounds to build self-confidence, promote employability and develop cross-community engagement. It is an eighteen week programme and has supported twenty young people who were partial or non-school attenders over the past two academic years.

## Economic Opportunities for Young People and their Families

### Labour force Participation and Unemployment rates

According to Census 2016, Donegal has a lower rate of participation in the labour force<sup>39</sup> at 57.3% than the State at 61.4%. 18% of Donegal's labour force is unemployed or first-time job seekers - significantly higher than the State at 12.9%. Of the 12,829 people who were unemployed or first time job seekers, 1,931 people were under 25 years and 10,898 people 25 years and over. 32.6% of the labour force aged '15 – 24 years' were unemployed or first-time job seekers, compared to 18.2% aged 25-34 years; 13.9% aged 35-44 years; 15.7% aged 45-54 years and 22.6% aged 55-64 years. The unemployment rates for males were higher in all of these age categories than for females.

<b>Table 41: By County 2016</b>	<b>Total Labour Force Participatio n Rate (%)</b>	<b>Total Unemploy ment Rate (%)</b>	<b>Male Labour Force Participatio n Rate (%)</b>	<b>Male Unemploye ment Rate (%)</b>	<b>Female Labour Force Participation Rate (Rate)</b>	<b>Male Unemploy ment Rate (Rate)</b>
<b>State</b>	61.4	12.9	67.8	13.7	55.2	12
<b>Leitrim</b>	59.3	14.5	64.6	16.5	53.9	12.2
<b>Sligo</b>	57.9	14	63.1	15.9	53	12
<b>Cavan</b>	61.3	15.1	68.7	15.1	54	15
<b>Donegal</b>	57.3	18	63.4	19.9	51.4	15.8
<b>Monaghan</b>	61.9	13	68.6	13.4	55.4	12.6

The Border<sup>40</sup> region has seen the most impressive labour force participation growth rate in Ireland since 2012 (4.2 compared to 1.3 in the State), with the exception of Dublin, but even so it remains the region with the 2nd lowest rate, (59.3) and the rate has in fact fallen during 2017 – 2019.<sup>41</sup>

<b>Table 42: Persons on Live Register (Number) by Sex, Social Welfare Office, Age Group and Month</b>					
		<b>Nov 2018</b>	<b>May 2019</b>	<b>Nov 2019</b>	<b>May 2020</b>
<b>State</b>	Under 25 years	19921	20347	18469	29617
	25 years and over	179748	169520	163527	196045
	All ages	199669	189867	181996	225662
<b>Donegal County</b>	Under 25 years	1235	1157	1086	1395
	25 years and over	9305	8877	8498	9487
	All ages	10540	10034	9584	10882

<sup>39</sup> This is calculated as the sum (persons at work + unemployed + first time jobseekers) / (total population 15 years and over)

<sup>40</sup> Donegal, Cavan, Monaghan, Sligo and Leitrim

<sup>41</sup> CSO Labour Force Survey Q4 2019

**Deprivation**

In 2015 disposable income (€15,705 per person) was lowest in Donegal at 77.2% of the national average of €20,334. In 2016, Donegal, at -6.4, was the lowest Relative HP Deprivation score in Ireland and compared to the overall state score which was 0.6.<sup>42</sup> In 2016 Donegal had the highest proportion of households at 18.5%, where state pension was majority of income. The median gross income per household was €45,256 and households with the lowest incomes were in Donegal (€32,259).

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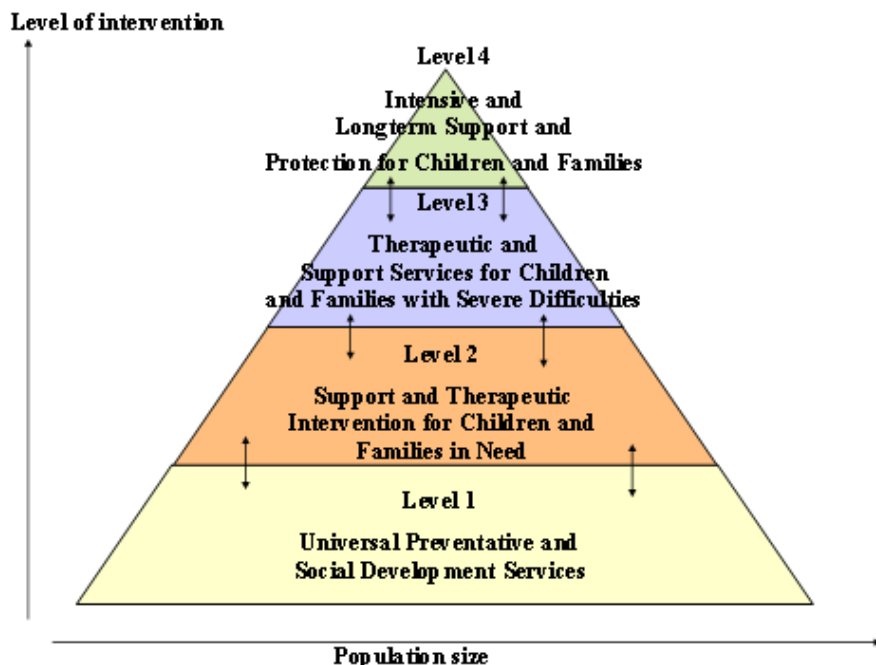
<sup>42</sup>The 2016 Pobal HP Deprivation Index

## Section 3: Overview of Services to Children and Families in Donegal

Services to Children and Families in Donegal are listed alphabetically and the level of service is categorised according to the Hardiker Model.

**Hardiker Model:**

**Figure 16**



The Model outlines four levels of intervention as follows:<sup>43</sup>

**Level 1:** refers to those mainstream services that are available to all children, health care, education, leisure and a range of other services provided in communities. It also offers the potential for targeting resources through community development initiatives such as parent and toddler groups, community houses, women's group which may be available to the whole community but particularly targeted at disadvantaged communities.

**Level 2:** represents services to children who have some additional needs. Services are characterised by referral, and full parental consent and negotiation. Examples would be Behaviour Support, Parenting Support, additional educational services and support for children who are deemed vulnerable through assessment of what their need is, and via targeted specific services provided by education, health, social services, law enforcement and the voluntary sector.

**Level 3:** represents support to families or individual children and young people where there are chronic or serious problems. Support is often provided through a complex mix of services which usually need to work together well in order to provide the best support. State intervention can have a high profile at this level. Examples would be children on the Child Protection Register or who have been before the Courts.

**Level 4:** represents support for families and individual children or young people where the family has broken down temporarily or permanently where the child or young person may be looked after by social services. It can also include young people in youth custody or prison or as an in-patient due to disability or mental health problems.

<sup>43</sup> Centre for Effective Services (2010). An introductory guide to key terms and interagency initiatives in use in the Children's Services Committees in Ireland. CES Reference Paper 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, June 2010.  
[http://www.dcv.gov.ie/documents/Key\\_Terms\\_Document.pdf](http://www.dcv.gov.ie/documents/Key_Terms_Document.pdf)



## Overview of services

<b>Organisation / Agency</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Statutory or Community<sup>44</sup></b>	<b>Universal or Targeted or Both</b>
	<b>Alcohol Drugs and Addiction Services</b>		
White Oaks Addiction Treatment Centre	Residential Addiction Treatment Centre	Community	Targeted Hardiker 4
Friends of Bill W Club	Counselling and Supports for people with addictions	Community	Targeted Hardiker 3
HSE Alcohol and Drug Service	One to One Counselling Youth Counsellor available	Statutory	Targeted Hardiker 3/4
NWRDATF	Drug and Alcohol Prevention and Education Initiative	Community	Universal and Targeted, Hardiker 1 and 2
Alcohol Forum	Community Action on Alcohol, Training and Awareness raising, Strengthening Families Programme	Community	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3,
	<b>Ante-natal care and education</b>		
HSE Ante-natal care and Education Classes	Preparation for parents to be for pregnancy, labour and the transition to parenthood	Statutory	Universal Hardiker 1+
Breastfeeding Support	Breastfeeding Support	Both	Universal Hardiker 1
	<b>Arts and Culture</b>		
Regional Culture Centre Letterkenny	Variety of art forms for children and young people. Visual Art, Showcases, Music	Both	Universal Hardiker 1
Library Services	Free library membership from birth. Library Events Programme, Services for Schools, On-line library Services	Statutory	Universal Hardiker 1
Balor Theatre, Amharclann Ghaath Dobhair, An Grianan, Abbey Theatre	Drama, Youth Theatre, Art Exhibitions, Live music, Cinema	Community	Universal Hardiker 1
Culture Division of Donegal County Council	County Archives Services, the Heritage Office and the County Museum	Statutory	Universal Hardiker 1
	<b>Black and Minority Ethnic Communities</b>		
Intercultural Platform	Building inclusion and equality in Donegal and promoting Human Rights and opposing discrimination and racism. Hold regular members meetings, debates and discussions.	Community	Targeted Hardiker 1
Refugee Resettlement Programme	Supporting access to service, providing guidance and advocacy for Refugee families resettling in County Donegal. Supporting inclusion and integration	Both	Targeted
Portsalon House	Direct Provision Centre	Statutory	Targeted
Donegal Travellers' Project	Provide educational supports e.g. homework clubs, development programmes for teens, Primary Health Care programme, summer activities, provide advice, information and support with accessing employment.	Community	Targeted
	<b>Citizens Information</b>		
Citizen's Information Services	Provision of Information, advice and advocacy on a broad range of public and social services	Statutory	Universal Hardiker 1
	<b>Childcare and Early</b>		
Donegal County Childcare Committee	Development, sustainability and advancement of high quality early childhood care and education. Support to early childhood providers, educators and parents in relation to childcare funding schemes and pre-school education. Provide accredited and non-accredited training and professional development opportunities to the early childhood sector. 160 Early years' providers registered with DCCC, 42 provide after schools services	Community	Universal Hardiker 1
Early Years		Community	Universal Hardiker 1

<sup>44</sup> Community includes Community and Voluntary

	<b>Child protection and Welfare</b>		
<i>Tusla Intake Social Work Team</i>	<i>Social Workers available to take calls 9-5pm from concerned members of the public regarding child protection / child welfare concerns</i>	<i>Statutory</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 3 and 4</i>
	<b>Community Centres</b>		
	<i>17 Community centres across County Donegal</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Universal</i>
	<b>Community Supports</b>		
<i>North Inishowen Schools Completion Project</i>	<i>School Completion Programme</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Universal and Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 and 2</i>
<i>SISCP</i>	<i>School Completion Programme</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Universal and Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 and 2</i>
<i>Inishowen Social Economy Network</i>	<i>Social Economy projects operating in Inishowen supporting projects ranging from childcare to youth projects to older peoples support</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Universal and Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 and 2</i>
<i>Dental Services</i>	<i>Emergency treatment to all children under 16 years. Routine care first/fourth and sixth class childre</i>	<i>Statutory</i>	<i>Universal and targeted</i>
	<b>Digital Services</b>		
<i>Donegal County Council/ERNACT</i>	<i>Donegal Digital Action Plan ERNACT Network Project – Transferring innovative energy solutions for housing and public infrastruc</i>	<i>Statutory</i>	<i>Universal</i>
	<b>Disability Services</b>		
<i>ADHD Ireland</i>	<i>Offer phone support for those who cannot attend support groups or have no support groups in their area</i>		<i>Targeted Hardiker 2, 3</i>
<i>HSE Autism Family Support Service, Letterkenny</i>	<i>Support group set up by parents for parents and families of children and adults with the Autism Spectrum Disorder</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Targeted 2+</i>
<i>Autism and Asperger’s Support Group, South West Donegal</i>	<i>Operate a self-organised, informal Family and Parent Support group. Providing homework support, organising days out, and information evenings</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 2+</i>
<i>iCARE</i>	<i>Supports for families and siblings and activities for young people with ASD</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Universal and Targeted, Hardiker Level 1 and 2</i>
<i>HSE Assessment of Need-Disability Act 2005</i>	<i>Provides Independent assessment of a child’s health and educational needs</i>	<i>Statutory</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 2+</i>
<i>Asthma Society of Ireland</i>	<i>Information, Education, Services and supports to families of people with asthma</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 2, 3</i>
<i>Atlantic Special Olympic Club</i>	<i>The organisation provides opportunity for people with an intellectual disability (over 16 years) to access Athletics and Basketball coaching in a fun and welcoming environmen</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 2</i>
<i>Bluestack Foundation</i>	<i>Work with families who may struggle with inclusion into mainstream activities, supports and services. They fundamentally offer practical advice, emotional support and a range of programmes for all children and young people of all abilities</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Targeted Level 2 ,3</i>
<i>Cairde Le Cheile</i>	<i>Provides sporting, social and employment opportunities, for people with disabilities, as well as young people and senior citizens in County Donegal</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 2</i>
<i>Cashel Na Cor Learning Disabilities</i>	<i>Provide care and support in a safe and secure environment for young adults with special needs, including a day centre and a recreation centre</i>	<i>Statutory</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 2</i>
<i>Challenging Behaviour Specialist Donegal / Derry</i>	<i>Provides a service for Parents/Professionals experiencing direct/indirect involvement with an individual displaying any type of challenging behaviour</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 2, 3</i>

Overview of services			
HSE Community Facilitator for Disabilities 6-18years	The C.F.D. provide ongoing support to families/carers of children who present with Physical, Sensory or Intellectual Disability from 6-18yrs or until they leave school. The service is home based and aims to assist and support parents/carers with the developmental needs of their child	Statutory	Targeted Hardiker 2,3
Deafhear	Range of specialist support and services to deaf and hard of hearing people and their families	Community	Targeted Hardiker 2,3
Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI)	Advocate for the full and equal inclusion of people with disabilities and disabling conditions in all aspects of their lives and provides organisational and policy support to Member Organisations in Donegal	Community	Targeted Hardiker 1, 2
Donegal Carers Association CLG	Provide support and care in the form of support groups, outings and training for those who are caring for children and people with special needs, be the needs physical or mental, the elderly, the long term and terminally ill	Community	Targeted Hardiker 2,
Donegal Centre for Independent Living	Personal Assistance service to people with disabilities. Education, Training and School awareness Programm	Community	Targeted Hardiker 2,3
Donegal Down Syndrome Ireland	Wide range of activities including yoga, drama, music therapy for baby and toddlers, baby massage, dance and cookery classes for adult	Community	Targeted Hardiker 2+
Donegal Early Intervention Team(HSE)	Interdisciplinary service working with child's parents or guardians, assessment, diagnosis and intervention to enable each child with complex needs meet their potential	Statutory	Targeted Hardiker 2+
Donegal Fibromyalgia Support Group	Provides support patients and families live with fibromyalgia, and to educate /provide awareness to the general public and health care professionals	Community	Targeted Hardiker 2+
Employment Response North West	Provide a Supported Employment Service throughout Donegal, Sligo and Leitrim to help those with disabilities, illness or injury to find paid employment	Community	Targeted Hardiker 2
Epilepsy Ireland	Providing support to people with epilepsy to help them participate in the broader community	Community	Targeted Hardiker 2+
Inclusion Ireland	Provides an information and advocacy service to people with an intellectual disability and their families	Community	Targeted Hardiker 2+
Irish Wheelchair Association	Work with, and on behalf of, people with physical disabilities to drive positive change in Ireland through the influencing of public policy, the provision of quality services and enabling accessibility to all aspects of society	Statutory	Targeted Hardiker 2+
The Jack and Jill Childrens Foundation.	Provide in home respite care to children under 5 years of age with severe too profound developmental delay and, end of life nursing care to all children under 5 years of age in the home nationally	Statutory	Targeted Hardiker 2, 3
HSE Key Worker for Children with Physical and Sensory Disabilities	Provides respite, home support and Keyworker services for children aged 0-18 years including practical and emotional support, information on benefits and entitlements, etc.	Statutory	Targeted Hardiker 2,3
Little Angels Special School, Letterkenny	Multi-denominational School for students with moderate sever or profound learning disabilities	Statutory	Targeted Hardiker 2+
NCBI	Provides practical and emotional support, rehabilitation services and other training to help people with sight loss to live independently	Community	Targeted Hardiker 2, 3
North West Special Olympics Club	Provide year-round training and competitions to individuals with intellectual disability in order to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympic athletes and the community.	Community	Targeted Hardiker 2+

<b>Overview of services</b>			
<i>Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus SBHI</i>	<i>Provide support on a local level socially, and with education. Provide access to a family support worker</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 2+</i>
<i>St Bernadette's Special School, Letterkenny</i>	<i>School catering for children with mild learning difficulties from 4-18 year</i>	<i>Statutory</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 2+</i>
<i>HSE Speech and Language Therapy</i>	<i>Assess and provide therapy for communication difficulties arising in language, speech intelligibility, stammering, voice quality, etc.</i>	<i>Statutory</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 2,3,4</i>
	<b>Education</b>		
	Primary Schools X 175	<i>Statutory</i>	<i>Universal</i>
	Post Primary Schools (excluding ETB Schools) X12	<i>Statutory</i>	<i>Universal</i>
<i>Donegal Education and Training Board</i>	<i>Post-primary Schools x 15 Further Education and Training (FET) Apprenticeships. Basic and further Education (literacy and numeracy) for 18+ years, Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme, Youthreach centres, Post Leaving Cert programme, Community Education, Gartan Outdoor Education and Training Centre, Donegal Music Education Partnership, Youth Services</i>	<i>Statutory</i>	<i>Universal and Targeted Hardiker Level 1 and 2</i>
<i>Home School Community Liaison Service</i>	<i>Visiting parents/guardians in their homes; actively involving parents/ guardians in their children's education; encouraging closer ties between teachers and parents</i>	<i>Community and Voluntary</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 2, 3 and possibly 4</i>
<i>Letterkenny Institute of Technology</i>	<i>Third level Courses at Certificate, Diploma, BA degree and MA Degree level. Research Masters and PHD level</i>	<i>Statutory</i>	<i>Universal Hardiker Level 1</i>
	<b>Entrepreneurship</b>		
<i>Local Enterprise Office</i>	<i>Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur</i>	<i>Statutory</i>	<i>Universal</i>
<i>Foróige</i>	<i>Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) is a world recognised, youth entrepreneurship education development programme</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Universal</i>
	<b>Emergency /Crisis Services</b>		
<i>Donegal Women's Domestic Violence Service</i>	<i>Outreach support to women and children including emergency accommodation, helpline, court accompaniment, Schools Programme, facilitated support programme</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 3+</i>
<i>Childline</i>	<i>24 hour listening service for children up to 18</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Universal and Targeted</i>
<i>GP Out of Hours Services</i>	<i>Urgent family doctor services outside of normal surgery hours</i>	<i>Statutory</i>	<i>Universal</i>
<i>North West Simon Community</i>	<i>Support for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Accommodation and practical support</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 3/4</i>
<i>Samaritans</i>	<i>Helpline for anyone experiencing feelings of despair/ suicidal</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 2+</i>
<i>Saint Vincent de Paul</i>	<i>Support, advice and help. Emergency accommodation</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 2+</i>
	<b>Family Resource Centres</b>		
<i>Family Resource Centre Network</i>	<i>There are 10 Family Resource Centres in Donegal offering a range of Child, Youth, Family and Community support. They provide support, advice, information, and services to everyone in the local community, older persons, lone parents, unemployed, men, women, youth and ethnic minorities. Arrange adult education and recreational services on an ongoing basis.</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2, 3</i>
	<b>Financial</b>		
<i>Money Advice Budgeting</i>	<i>Free confidential service for people in debt or in danger of getting in debt. Budgeting and maximising income</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Targeted</i>

<b>Overview of services</b>			
Community Banker	Providing support re developing personal financial skills	Private/ Community	Universal
	<b>Justice</b>		
Courts Service	Provide support services for judges, information on the courts system to the public, manage and maintain court buildings and provide facilities for users of the court	Statutory	Targeted Hardiker 1
Garda Youth Diversion Projects (managed by Foróige)	Community-based multi-agency crime prevention initiatives targeted at 12-17-year-old "at risk" youths in communities, where a specific need has been identified and where there is a risk of them remaining within the justice system. Offer focussed and effective educational interventions to challenge and divert young people from offending behaviour	Community	Targeted Hardiker 1
Probation Service	Assesses and manages offenders in the community. It works with offenders and others to reduce offending and to make communities safer. It is an agency within the Department of Justice and Equality	Statutory	Targeted Hardiker 1
	<b>Local Authority / Local Development Companies</b>		
Donegal County Council	Authority responsible for local government including housing and community, roads and transport, planning and development, libraries, culture and environment	Statutory	Universal and Targeted
Inishowen Development Partnership	Providing opportunities for those in Inishowen to participate in all aspects of cultural, education, social and economic opportunities. Childcare and Youth support	Community	Universal and Targeted
Donegal Local Development	Providing opportunities for those in Co. Donegal, (outside Inishowen) to participate in all aspects of cultural, education, social and economic opportunities	Community	Universal and Targeted
Údarás Na Gaeltachta	Regional Development Agency with responsibility for the economic, social and cultural development of the Gaeltachta. Support a range of initiatives and collaborates with individuals, community groups and companies which embrace Irish and provide the everyday settings in which the language flourishes	Statutory	Universal
	<b>Mental Health</b>		
HSE Child and Family Mental Health Services, Donegal	Help young people and their families by identifying their difficulty, providing them with information about it and planning treatment that will improve their psychological wellbeing	Statutory	Targeted Hardiker 3,4
Grow in Ireland (NW Region)	Provides peer support, motivation, empowerment and education around emotional and mental wellbeing.	Community	Targeted Hardiker 2+
Jigsaw + Outreach	Free and confidential support service for young people, aged 15- 25years. Offer training and support to communities to understand and support youth mental health through education, training and partnership working	Community	Targeted Hardiker 2,3
Aware	Support and assistance for those affected by depression. Support Group	Community	Targeted
Social Prescribing	Supports health and well-being of people using community based supports, exercise, art, reading gardenin	Community	Targeted Hardiker 2+
Insight Inishowen	Promotes mental health and emotional wellbeing and works to prevent suicide. Provides Education, Training and Awareness in attempting to combat suicide. Care for families bereaved by suicide and support for persons experiencing distress	Community	Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1+
Worklink	Training and support service for people who have experienced mental ill health/ illness	Statutory	Targeted Hardiker
Mindful Children	Offer daytime and evening classes for children aged 4 to early teen; adapted to suit children/teens with additional needs. Classes introduce children to mindfulness via breathing techniques, meditation, stories, arts and crafts	Community	Targeted Hardiker 2+



<b>Overview of services</b>			
<i>Pieta House</i>	<i>Mental health supports and Helpline</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Universal Hardiker 1</i>
	<b>Parenting / Family Support</b>		
<i>Parent Hub</i>	<i>A "One Stop Shop" online service, providing information to parents on support services and advice on parenting issues. Promotes Parenting Programmes and information seminars on related topics</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Universal Hardiker 1</i>
<i>Finn Valley Family Support Centre</i>	<i>New Parenting initiative coordination and development of dedicated Parenting supports in County Donegal</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Universal Hardiker 1</i>
<i>UNLOCK Play Therapy</i>	<i>Support parents who are worried about their child's behaviour. Services provided include play therapy and support for parents/Family and Child "mastering Meltdowns" working with children aged 2years-12years.</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 2, 3</i>
<i>Families Matter</i>	<i>Delivery of evidenced based programmes including the Strengthening Families Programme, Families Matter Advocacy Service</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 2,3</i>
<i>Inishowen Family Action Network(CFSN) Donegal South Central CFSN Donegal South CFSN Donegal North Central CFSN Donegal North West CFSN</i>	<i>Child and Family Support Networks: Create an environment for a joined up and integrated approach to supporting parents, carers, children and young people living in the area</i>	<i>Both</i>	<i>Universal</i>
<i>Letterkenny Youth and Family Service</i>	<i>LYFS provides needs-based youth and family support service. Offer a wide range of services that support individuals with additional physical, sensory, intellectual and mental health needs, including anger management, emotional development, healthy eating and exercise programmes and parental support programmes</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1+</i>
<i>Lifestart Services Services</i>	<i>Evidence based intensive, early intervention and prevention home visiting parent support and child development programme. The programme is adapted to offer a unique model of support to families experiencing difficulty or with complex needs up until their child reaches 5 years of age</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3,4</i>
<i>Pre-School Behaviour Support Service</i>	<i>Clinic based service provided by Advanced Nurse Practitioner to support parents experiencing difficulties with their child's behaviour</i>	<i>Statutory</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 2,3</i>
<i>Something Special Support Group</i>	<i>Supports the needs of parents or guardians of a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder; delayed Communication; and Intellectual Disability, Physical Disability and/or Sensory Disability. The group bring parents in similar situations together to talk, support one another, share information and build friendships</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 2, 3</i>
<i>Spraoui Agus Sport Family Centre, Carndonagh</i>	<i>Provide quality after/school clubs, weekend and holiday time activities, morning parent and toddler groups, preschool classes and evening classes for children, teenagers, and adults regardless of ability or disability</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Universal Hardiker 1,2</i>
<i>Springboard Family Support Service</i>	<i>Provide intensive family support including home visiting from family support workers, Parent and Toddler Programme, After Schools Programme, Individual and Group work and parental development courses</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 2,3,4</i>
<i>Tir Boghaine Teo</i>	<i>Home Visiting family support, Parents Programmes, Carer's Group, Community gardens, Schools Transitions</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3</i>
<i>Parent and Toddler Groups</i>	<i>Clonmany, Fanad, Leterkenny, Ranafast, Rathmullan, Quigley's Point, Culdaff, Portnoo, Dunfanaghy, Killybegs, Pettigo</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Universal Hardiker 1</i>

<b>Overview of services</b>			
	<b>PHN Service</b>		
<i>HSE Public Health Nursing Service</i>	<i>Professional nursing service from pre-birth to end of life</i>	<i>Statutory</i>	<i>Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3,4</i>
	<b>Sports Organisations /Recreation Facilities</b>		
<i>Donegal Sports Partnership</i>	Supports the development of initiatives which aim to increase participation in sport and physical activity especially among the many low participation target groups. Provide education and training to support sports delivery – e.g. Safeguarding in sport 1, 2 and 3. Participation and inclusive sports provider across all ages	<i>Statutory</i>	<i>Targeted – most disadvantaged and marginalised.</i>
<i>Donegal County Council</i>	Playground and mini pitches. Public parks, Public swimming pools: Ballyshannon and Aura Letterkenny, Finn Valley Leisure Centre	<i>Statutory</i>	<i>Universal</i>
	<b>Support services /Groups</b>		
<i>Al Anon</i>	<i>Supportive Family Group Meetings for friends and family members of problem drinkers</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 1</i>
<i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>	<i>Self help support group for persons who are or have experienced alcohol addiction</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 2,+</i>
<i>Anam Cara</i>	<i>Bereavement Support for parents, (monthly meetings), Information Evenings, Family Events</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 1</i>
<i>Donegal Mental Health Service Family Support Group</i>	<i>Monthly meetings for family members of persons receiving inpatient or community-based care.</i>	<i>Statutory</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 3,4</i>
<i>Donegal Smoking Cessation Service</i>	<i>Confidential face to face service for anyone who wishes to stop smoking</i>	<i>Statutory</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 2 +</i>
<i>Narcotics Anonymous</i>	<i>Self-help support group for persons who have experienced drug addictions. Offer recovery from the effects of addiction through a twelve-step program.</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 2+</i>
<i>Rainbows, Finn Valley FRC and Letterkenny</i>	<i>Listening service for children and young people struggling to come to terms with significant loss and change in their lives. Group support, including support in rebuilding self-esteem, trust, confidence and resilience. Provides a model of coping and support for the future of the child.</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Targeted Hardiker 2+</i>
	<b>Youth Services / Supports</b>		
<i>Range of Youth services</i>	<p><b>Foróige: Projects and Services</b> operate across Donegal - Ballyshannon/ Bundoran Neighbourhood Youth Project (N.Y.P.), Rosses N.Y.P., Loft LK – Youth Project and Health Advice Café, Teen Parents Support Programme, Integrated Youth Project, South West Donegal Youth Project and Drop in Centre, Big Brother, Big Sister Youth Mentoring programme, Drug/Alcohol Education and Prevention Programme, Garda Youth Diversion Projects, Donegal UBU Project, Donegal Youth Council, Peace funded Projects and Youth Clubs.</p> <p><b>Donegal Youth Service:</b> Donegal Young Carers' Project, Breakout, Letterkenny Youth Information Loft LK Youth Project, Teen talk, Donegal Youth Council, Youth support projects. <b>Others:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oige na Gaeltachta</li> <li>• Scouting Ireland</li> <li>• Boys Brigade Ireland/Girls Brigade Ireland</li> <li>• Irish Girl Guides</li> <li>• Community Youth Marching Bands</li> <li>• Girls Friendly Society</li> <li>• Codor Dojo Foundation</li> <li>• Community Youth Drama</li> <li>• Faith based Youth Groups</li> <li>• No Name Club</li> </ul>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Universal and Targeted Hardiker 1,2,3,4</i>

<b>Overview of services</b>			
	<b>Women's Services</b>		
<i>Donegal Women's Centre, Letterkenny</i>	<i>Women's health and family planning, health clinic, Crisis Pregnancy service, breast feeding support, counselling, Mother and Toddler</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Universal and targeted Hardiker 1+</i>
<i>Donegal Women's Domestic Violence Service (DWDVS)</i>	<i>Offer outreach meetings, refuge accommodation, a healthy relationship awareness programme, a facilitated support programmes, referral programme, NSPCC Mother/Child programme, support and court accompaniment, and provide information and links to a number of services that provide support on housing and welfare entitlements</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Universal and targeted Hardiker 1+</i>
<i>Donegal Rape Crisis Centre</i>	<i>Provides a free professional counselling service to both males and females who have experienced rape, sexual abuse, or any other form of sexual violence</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Universal and targeted Hardiker 1+</i>
<i>NCCWN Donegal</i>	<i>National Collective of Community-Based Women's Networks (NCCWN) Donegal is 1 of 17 NCCWN projects in Ireland supporting women who experience disadvantage and marginalisation as a result of barriers and lack of opportunities</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Universal and targeted Hardiker 1+</i>



## Section 4: Local Needs Analysis in Donegal

The data presented in this section is as a result of an analysis of:

- Socio-demographic data for the region.
- Consultation with parents, children and young people and agencies.
- Planning meetings with Donegal CYPSC and Sub-Committees.
- Review of relevant research reports.

For each outcome the following questions are answered:

- How are Children and Young People in Donegal CYPSC area doing?
- What did the consultations tell us?
- Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?

This is then followed by a summary of the priorities for this plan based on this analysis.

## Outcome 1. Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

<p><b>How are Children and Young People in Donegal CYPSC area doing?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most children in Donegal are active and healthy.</li> <li>• Breastfeeding rates in Donegal have gone down over the last number of years. In 2019, much less mothers in Donegal continued to breastfeed at time of PHN 3 month's contact (24.3% compared to State: 42.6%).</li> <li>• The rate of hospital discharges for injuries in children 0-14 was significantly higher in Donegal (109/10,000) than nationally (82/10,000).</li> <li>• Donegal had the highest rate of emergency hospital admissions for asthma in children in the country and this was significantly higher than the national average (412/100,000 vs 134/100,000 nationally).</li> <li>• The Health Behaviour in School Aged Children Survey showed that:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 16.1% of 10 – 17 year olds in Donegal report not having breakfast on weekdays compared to 12.3% in the national sample.</li> <li>– 42.9% of 10 – 17 year olds in Donegal report participating in weekly vigorous exercise compared to 49.3 in the national sample.</li> <li>– 32.7% of 15 – 17 year olds report having been really drunk compared to 40.7% in national sample.</li> <li>– 24.6% of 10 – 17 year olds in Donegal report having a disability or chronic condition compared to 21.1% in the national sample.</li> <li>– 73.2% of 15 – 17 year olds report being comfortable talking about their sexuality compared to 80.8 in the national sample.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>What did the consultations tell us?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are a lot of positive aspects to being young in Donegal particularly in relation to connection to people and place. There is good participation in a range of youth services. Most young people and parents surveyed indicated that they had access to healthy food every day. Most young people felt they had a caring adult that they could tell anything to. 80% of young people felt that they could get enough physical activity every day.</li> <li>• Almost half of young people and just over half of parents indicated that harmful substances are easy to access in their area. There is concern among key agencies in relation to increased cocaine use.</li> <li>• Mental health was one of the top three types of information that both young people and parents said was important to them.</li> <li>• School, social media and friends were reported by young people as their main sources of information. For parents it was social media, leaflets in local centres and family/friends. 60% of young people and 63% of parents said they had access to good quality wifi at home. 58% of parents had heard of the Donegal Parent's Hub, under half of whom had ever used its website or social media pages.</li> <li>• Young people reported a wide range of impacts that COVID19 has had on their mental health.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are a wide range of services available. 73.5% of young people surveyed reported that they had access to quality health services. However, transport is a key challenge in relation to accessing services and activities.</li> <li>• 56% of young people felt that there are not enough services for young people in their area. Recreational facilities and Mental health supports were among the top things that young people would like greater access to. Per capita funding for under 18 year olds for CAMHS services for CHO1 was the third lowest funding in all CHOs.<sup>45</sup></li> <li>• Service planning and developed is ongoing e.g. CHO1 Healthy Ireland Implementation Plan 2018-2023; Child Health Strategy; Policy Framework for Service Delivery of Children's Disability Network Teams.</li> </ul>

<sup>45</sup> The Mental Health Commission CAMHS Inspection Report for CHO1 2017

## Outcome 1. Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

### Priorities for Donegal CYPSC

Priority Area	Objectives
<p>1. Supporting integrated and holistic health and wellbeing initiatives.</p>	<p>To support, maintain and develop the Donegal Young Carers Projects and those with a secondary caring role.</p> <p>To support, maintain and develop the Breakout service for LGBTIQ+ young people and other LGBTIQ+ supports in the county.</p> <p>To promote collaboration to ensure the provision of opportunities for physical activity for young people outside of traditional sports.</p> <p>To promote the provision of flexible and responsive respite that involves extracurricular social engagement opportunities for children and young people with disabilities.</p>
<p>2. Facilitating interagency collaboration in relation to mental health service development and delivery.</p>	<p>To promote holistic wellbeing by engaging those vulnerable to or at risk of mental health challenges in their lives.</p> <p>To support collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) In providing and promoting pathways to accessing young mental health services.</li> <li>b) To build the capacity of all stakeholders in relation to promoting positive mental health and making appropriate referrals.</li> </ul> <p>To contribute to the development and implementation 'Connecting for Life Donegal Action Plan', particularly in relation to prevention and treatment of self-harm in children and young people.</p> <p>To promote interagency collaboration that can address and minimise the impact of Covid-19 on children and young people's mental health and on mental health services.</p>
<p>3. Promoting and supporting inclusion and diversity in services and in communities.</p>	<p>To facilitate intercultural awareness and to support initiatives aiming to eliminate racism and discrimination in services and communities.</p> <p>To provide accessible and appropriate information and services for parents, children and young people.</p> <p>To improve understanding of Disability through interagency collaboration in order to improve how agencies engage with children and young people with disabilities.</p>

## Outcome 2. Achieving full potential in learning and development

<p><b>How are Children and Young People in Donegal CYPSC area doing?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2018 – 2019, 7030 children aged between 0-5 years attended early childhood care and education services with over half of those availing of ECCE (free pre-school year). There are 155 childcare services in Donegal.</li> <li>• 18,936 children attend primary school level education in Donegal and 12,675 young people attend second level.</li> <li>• Over the twenty year period 1999 to 2019 there was an increase of 27.8% in enrolments in primary schools (mainstream and special) nationally. Donegal was the only area that saw a decrease (-0.7%) in that period. Enrolments are projected to fall over the coming 15 years.</li> <li>• The rates of absenteeism for 2016/17 are             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Primary schools Donegal: 7.6, State: 11.8; Post-primary schools in Donegal: 22.0, State: 14.7.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The retention rate to the Leaving Certificate in Donegal for 2012 cohort is 91.7 compared to State rate of 91.5.</li> <li>• There are six centres in County Donegal offering 160 places on the Youthreach programme in County Donegal. Daybreak, an individually tailored education programme to support young people to remain in education led by the Donegal Youth Service, is delivered in three locations and offers 36 places.</li> <li>• The percentage of the local population who have finished their full time education and left with no formal or primary education is higher in Donegal (22%) than nationally (13%).</li> </ul>
<p><b>What did the consultations tell us?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 77% of young people who responded to the consultation indicated that they have access to quality education supports. 76% of parents indicated that their children have access to quality education supports. School was the second most popular place that young people sourced information on services in the county.</li> <li>• One third of parents consulted indicated that they took part regularly in school parent’s associations/meetings/events.</li> <li>• Information on Education ranked first in order of importance for both young people and parents.</li> <li>• COVID 19 has had a significant impact on young people’s experience of education and managing schooling at home was a source of stress for both parents and young people.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donegal is well served with early years, primary, secondary, further and third level education provision. Significant disparity in early years services in urban areas.</li> <li>• In 2017/2018, Donegal had the highest vacancy rate in early years services at 13% compared to a national rate of 5%. The average hourly wages in the early years sector was second lowest in the country and the annual staff turnover rate for staff was one of the highest in Ireland at 34% compared to 25% nationally.</li> <li>• A review of out of school education provision in Ireland (May 2018) identified a gap in the North West.</li> <li>• The implementation of Cultúr: A Strategic Vision for Cultural Services 2016-2020 has an important role in supporting children and young people’s learning and development.</li> </ul>

## Outcome 2. Achieving full potential in learning and development

### Priorities for Donegal CYPSC

Priority Area	Objectives
<p>1. Supporting an inclusive approach to the development of children and young people in the early years.</p>	<p>To develop parents' awareness of the importance of play in learning and development.            To develop an interagency response to the impact of Covid 19 on the availability of childcare places.            To support childcare staff to develop empathy in young children.</p>
<p>2. Collaborating to improve educational attainment and participation of children and young people, with a focus on the vulnerable and those from ethnic minorities.</p>	<p>To develop parents' awareness of the importance of play, reading to and with children in learning and development.            To disseminate information on the availability of childcare places.            To support childcare staff to develop empathy in young children.            To collaboratively build Smarter Communities through the development of access to digital devices for learning and building digital literacy skills among families.            Promote initiatives that support the participation of children and young people who experience disadvantage because of ethnic or socio-economic background.            To promote alternatives to in-school education and support young people to access the pathways available to them.</p>
<p>3. Promoting and supporting arts and cultural programmes to enhance learning in schools, homes and the community</p>	<p>To promote intercultural understanding in schools and communities through the Arts.            To develop initiatives that build on the work of Donegal County Council's Cultúr strategy and the Right to Read Campaign.</p>

### Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

<p><b>How are Children and Young People in Donegal CYPSC area doing?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From the period 2017 – 2019, the number of children in care remained between 200 and 220. The majority of these children are based with general foster parents (between 78 – 80% in each of the three years. Under 20% of children in care are fostered with relatives).</li> <li>• 48 children were listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System at the end of 2018, down from 60 in 2017 and 50 in 2016. Numbers on CPNS had decreased to 34 at the beginning of 2020 but had increased to 61 by the end of September 2020. Much of the increase was a result of children listed in other jurisdictions or other parts of Ireland moving into the Area. The main concerns resulting in referrals to Tusla remains alcohol abuse, domestic violence and deficits in parenting skills. Other significant factors are issues to do with child mental health and relationship difficulties within the home. Alcohol abuse and domestic violence remain the core reasons resulting in children requiring alternative care.</li> <li>• The numbers of young people engaged in the Garda Juvenile Diversion Programme was 92 in 2018 and 108 in 2019.</li> <li>• In Donegal in 2017, there were 51 hospital treated episodes of deliberate self-harm for young people age &lt; 16 - 17 years and 96 in the 18 - 24 age category.</li> <li>• In 2018, 96.6% of children 10 – 14 years in Donegal reported that the area in which they live is safe compared to 90.3% nationally. 27.5% of 10 – 17 year olds reported ever being bullied at school in the past couple of months compared to 30% nationally.</li> <li>• The total number of referrals relating to young people living in the Donegal Division catchment area of An Garda Síochána decreased from 619 in 2017 to 435 in 2018 but rose again to 682 in 2019. Public order offences were the biggest number of referrals in 2017 but were overtaken by theft and related offences in 2019. Controlled drug offences have increased from 15 in 2017 to 32 in 2019.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What did the consultations tell us?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 64% of young people consulted reported that they have safe public places where they can hang out. 92% of parents reported that where they live is a safe place to raise children.</li> <li>• Issues of safety raised by agencies working with children and young people included the impact of domestic violence on children, online safety and understanding safety in health behaviours and relationships.</li> <li>• Covid-19 has highlighted a range of issues in relation to many aspects of safety – in the home, online, in the community - that will need to be explored further.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The full complement of Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) has now been established in Donegal with every part of the county being served by a CFSN. Each Network has a membership of approximately 20-25, all of whom work to achieve outcomes for children and families.</li> <li>• There were 1611 children in receipt of Family Support Services (period end Q4 2019) down from 2100 Q4 2018. In Q4 2019 this represented a rate of 37.6 per 1000 under 18s, compared to 15.4 nationally. The number of requests for Meitheal multi-agency processes with children / young people more than quadrupled in the period 2017 – 2019 (from 21 to 96). As expected, the volume of Meitheal requests grew throughout the county in parallel with the development of the CFSN infrastructure.</li> <li>• Training of staff in the provision of culturally appropriate services was identified in the survey of agencies as something important to black and minority ethnic groups.</li> </ul>

## Outcome 3: Safe and Protected from Harm

### Priorities for Donegal CYPSC

Priority Area	Objectives
1. Addressing the needs of children and young people experiencing domestic violence in the home.	To develop domestic violence resource materials and programmes for people working with children and young people. To ensure services available to men overcoming in other parts of the country are available in Donegal. To develop awareness on 'the toxic trio' and their impact on children – domestic violence, mental health and substance misuse.
2. Supporting children and young people to understand what it means to feel safe and to develop skills accordingly.	To promote a collaborative approach to initiatives for parents, children and front-line staff in relation to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cyber safety</li> <li>• Online bullying</li> <li>• Sexual relationships</li> <li>• Road safety</li> <li>• Alcohol and other drugs</li> </ul>
3. Building resilience in children and young people.	To support parents and children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• managing transitions and times of significant change</li> <li>• managing stress</li> </ul>

## Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity

### How are Children and Young People in Donegal CYPSC area doing?

- Trend of young people leaving Donegal to go abroad or live elsewhere in the country. Shrinkage in the 20 – 34 age cohort between 2011 – 2016, particularly severe in some rural areas.
- The Border region has seen an impressive labour force participation growth rate in Ireland since 2012 (4.2 compared to 1.3 in the State), but even so it remains the region with the 2nd lowest rate, (59.3) and the rate has in fact fallen during 2017 – 2019.
- In May 2020, 1,395 young people (under 25) in Donegal were on the live register.
- Statistics available for the Border Midlands Region 2017 indicate that Donegal is in region that had the highest proportion of the population living below the National Poverty Line (25.7% compared to 15.7% for the State). At county level in 2015 disposable income at (€15,705) per person was lowest in Donegal at 77.2% of the national average of €20,334.
- In 2016, Donegal, at -6.4, was the lowest Relative HP Deprivation score in Ireland and compared to the overall state score which was 0.6.
- 926 households qualified for social housing support in Donegal in 2019. Of those 13% of applicants were under 25 compared to 8% in the State. 23% were on the housing waiting list for less than a year, 32% between 1 and 3 years and 26% over 3 years.

### What did the consultations tell us?

- Only 20% of parents and 36% of young people consulted felt that there were enough training and employment opportunities in their area.
- Issues identified by agencies consulted included improvement in pathways and options to education, training and employment as well as diversity training for all stakeholders including the business community. The need for specific employment and training support for people with disability was identified.
- Language can be a barrier to economic security and opportunity for people for whom English is not their first language.

### Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?

- Geographical disparities in demographics and infrastructure.
- Donegal Local Development, Inishowen Development Partnership, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Donegal County Council through the Local Enterprise Office are actively addressing issues of economic security and opportunity in the area.
- The county is served by the Letterkenny Institute of Technology and the Institute of Technology Sligo as well as Donegal ETB, a range of other training providers.
- Directory of Disability Services in County Donegal launched in 2018 and updated every 6 months.



## Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity

### Priorities for Donegal CYPSC

<p>1. Promoting equality of opportunity to further education and training.</p>	<p>To support young people to access alternative pathways to education and skills development, including entrepreneurship.          To promote entrepreneurship development among young people.          To provide supports to young people with disabilities to access education and employment opportunities.</p>
<p>2. Tackling economic disadvantage.</p>	<p>To facilitate food security initiatives for families.          To identify the scale of 'couch surfing' families and young people and develop an interagency response.          To examine the impact of online learning on overcoming geographical barriers to accessing training, education and employment.</p>
<p>3. Promoting inclusion and diversity.</p>	<p>Collaborate in the provision of diversity training for all stakeholders.</p>

## Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world

<p><b>How are Children and Young People in Donegal CYPSC area doing?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a lot of participation of young people in a wide range of community and social activities that enable them to feel connected and respected and contributing to their world, in particular through Donegal Youth Council (Comhairle na nÓg), Donegal Youth Service and Foróige.</li> <li>• 52.1% of 10 – 17 year olds report in Donegal that there are good places to spend free time in the areas in which they live. This compares to 63.9 in the national sample.</li> <li>• 61.9% of 15 – 17 year olds in Donegal report that their friends try to help them (national sample 70.9%) and 62.8% reported that they can talk about their problems with their friends (national sample 70.2%).</li> <li>• 26.1% of 10 – 14 year olds and 16.6% of 15 – 17 year olds in Donegal report that in their school children take part in making the rules (national sample 34.8% and 15.7% respectively).</li> <li>• Athrú Donegal EPIC Forum and Donegal Youth Voices were awarded an Investing in Children Membership Award in 2019.</li> <li>• 82.2% of the population in Donegal 2016 were White Irish compared to 89.5% in the State. Under the Refugee Resettlement Programme 45 families have resettled in Donegal.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What did the consultations tell us?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Inclusion and diversity is a priority issue for children and young people’s services in Donegal.</li> <li>• Not having English as a first language can be a barrier to participation within the community. The amount and duration of Resettlement support is inadequate to meet the level of need.</li> <li>• The geography of Donegal contributes to rural isolation with issues of transport, infrastructure and facilities and is a recurring theme across all outcome areas. Covid-19 has added to the issues of isolation. Facilities and activities for children and young people is a priority issue for children, young people, parents and services.</li> <li>• Children, young people and parents indicated experience of discrimination in a variety of areas. 69% of young people and 74% of parents reported feeling valued and respected as a person. 64% of young people and 80% of parents reported feeling that they make a positive contribution to the world.</li> <li>• Further development of participation structures and processes are needed particularly for children, young people and parents experiencing exclusion.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Are there sufficient services in this outcome area?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donegal Comhairle na nÓg are very active and focused on three key areas in 2020: Drugs and Alcohol; Sexual Health; Mental Health.</li> <li>• Local Link rural transport scheme is operating in Donegal.</li> <li>• The Disability and Inclusion Fair (Dates) is a successful initiative in the county.</li> <li>• The Donegal Intercultural Platform is committed to a more inclusive, welcoming and anti-racist society and has representatives on the Connecting for Life initiative, The Community Health Network, Donegal Women’s Centre, The PEACE IV Partnership, DLDC Working Groups, Social Inclusion Measures Group, Social Inclusion Linkage Group (SILG – PPN) etc. The Donegal Travellers Project is actively working to contribute to the improvement in the quality of life, living standards and status of Irish Travellers and Roma.</li> </ul>

## Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world

### Priorities for Donegal CYPSC

Priority Area	Objectives
1. Facilitating ongoing dialogue between agencies and children and young people	To co-ordinate communication processes between and across youth participation structures and Donegal CYPSC. To develop mechanisms for young people to have a voice in the planning of youth facilities, parks, housing estates etc.
2. Building socially inclusive communities	To respond to the issues raised during the CYPSC Planning consultation 2020. To facilitate disability inclusion in sports and recreational activity.

### Transformational Goals

Priority Area	Objectives
1. Child and Youth Participation	To support a strategic approach to child and youth participation across CYPSC partner agencies.
2. Interagency training initiatives	To facilitate individual agencies to share training with other agencies.
3. Alignment with other local plans	To work towards the alignment of the CYPP with other local plans.
4. Support Parents	To support and promote parenting support opportunities across the county. To support and promote the Parent Hub Donegal activities.
5. Ensure effective use of CYPSC funding	To make best use of available financial resources to support implementation of the CYPP 2021-2023.

## Section 5: Summary of Children and Young People’s Plan for Donegal

The following priorities have been identified following the local needs analysis (based on Socio-demographic profile, audit of services, consultations). All actions will be implemented in a way that responds to the emerging needs of the population in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on the population and on the delivery of services.

Outcome Areas	Local Priority Areas*
1. Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting integrated and holistic health and wellbeing initiatives.</li> <li>• Facilitating interagency collaboration in relation to mental health service development and delivery.</li> <li>• Promoting and supporting inclusion and diversity in services and in communities.</li> </ul>
2. Achieving full potential in learning and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting an inclusive approach to the development of children and young people.</li> <li>• Collaborating to improve educational attainment and participation of children and young people, with a focus on the vulnerable and those from ethnic minorities.</li> <li>• Promoting and supporting arts and cultural programmes to enhance learning in schools, homes and the community.</li> </ul>
3. Safe and protected from harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addressing the needs of children and young people experiencing domestic violence in the home.</li> <li>• Supporting children and young people to understand what it means to feel safe and to develop skills accordingly.</li> <li>• Building resilience in children and young people.</li> </ul>
4. Economic security and opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting equality of opportunity to further education and training.</li> <li>• Tackling economic disadvantage.</li> <li>• Promoting inclusion and diversity.</li> </ul>
5. Connected, respected and contributing to their world	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitating ongoing dialogue between agencies and children and young people.</li> <li>• Building socially inclusive communities.</li> </ul>

Transformational Goals Change Management Subcommittee	Local Priority Areas
Change Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child and Youth Participation</li> <li>• Interagency training initiatives</li> <li>• Alignment with other local plans</li> <li>• Ensure effective use of CYPSC funding</li> </ul>
Parent Hub Donegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support the coordination of parenting supports across the county.</li> <li>• To ensure an active parenting focus in the implementation of the Donegal Children and Young people’s Plan.</li> </ul>

## Section 6: Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee

## Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
Supporting integrated and holistic health and wellbeing initiatives.	To support, maintain and develop Donegal Young Carers Projects and those with a secondary caring role.	Baseline data on young carers (10-24 years) available to all agencies.  Young carers peer support meetings in Letterkenny and 2 other areas. Either physically or remotely.  Evidence of peer group activities attendance and evaluations.	Baseline data report produced.  Bi-weekly Young Carers: 10-17 years 18 – 24 years Supported by various youth organisations. Respite	Compile Baseline on the number of young carers being supported by various C&V agencies. Support facilitation of peer support meetings. Support delivery of One to one support sessions; Individual advocacy work; Respite. Deliver Training programmes for young carers Deliver Awareness training in schools on the caring role and impact on young people	Q2 2021  2021-2023	Donegal Youth Services, SONAS, iCARE, Jigsaw, FRC Network, CDPs, Foróige, Bluestack Foundation, Schools	Better Outcomes Brighter Futures,  Healthy Ireland National Suicide prevention Strategy  LECP Donegal Goal 4: 4.13.7 and 4.13.7  Healthy Ireland	Outcome 5: Connected Respected and Contributing  Transformational Goals: Support Parents  Early Intervention and Prevention  Inter-agency collaboration
	To support, maintain and develop the Breakout service for LGBTQI+ young	Baseline data on LGBTQI+ youth (13-30 years) available to all agencies.	13-17 years 18-30 years  1 to 1 Support to parents	Compile baseline on the number of LGBTQI+ youth being supported by CandV agencies.	2021-2023	Donegal Youth Service, BelongTo, TENI, Jigsaw, FRC Network, CDPs		Outcome 2: Achieving in all areas of learning and development

## Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
	people and other LGBTQI+ supports in the county.	Annual activity Plan.  Peer groups meeting either physically or remotely. Evidence of peer group activities attendance and evaluations.	Peer group meetings regularly in 3-5 locations across the county.	Support facilitation of Peer groups meeting physically or remotely. In Letterkenny, Glenties, Moville and Expand to include Young people in Falcarragh and Ballybofey.	2021-2023	Schools, Foróige		Transformational Goals: Support Parents Early Intervention and Prevention, Listen to and involve children Inter-agency collaboration
	To promote collaboration to ensure the provision of opportunities for physical activity for young people including activities outside of traditional sports.	Annual action plans programme of inclusive sport and physical activity opportunities, with a focus on the most marginalised and disadvantaged.  Participation levels of children and young people in sport increased with less children dropping out of	Children 3-7 years	Support the development of action plans with community and sporting groups to develop opportunities for Children and Young people of all abilities to engage in sport and physical activity	2021 – 2023	Donegal Sports Partnership  Community groups and sporting clubs  Disability Organisations  iCARE	Get Ireland Active – National Physical Activity Plan  National Sports Policy 2018-2027  Donegal Sports Partnership Strategic Plan  Better Outcomes Brighter Futures	
			Children 3-7 years	Support the development of programmes and initiative with a focus on core	2021-2023			



## Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
		sport and physical activity.		physical literacy and fundamental movement skills to improve the physical activity habits of children and young people.	2021		National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021	
		Development and delivery of the inclusive sports club model to provide sporting opportunities for all children regardless of ethnicity, age, gender or disability.	Sports Leaders Parents and Guardians	Work with Sports clubs and communities to develop an inclusive sports club model.	2021-2023	Donegal Sports Partnership  Community groups and sporting clubs Disability Organisations iCARE	UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability  National Disability Strategy 2004  National Disability Strategy Implementation Plan 2013 -2015	Transformational Goals: Support Parents  Early Intervention and Prevention,  Listen to and involve children  Inter-agency collaboration.
	To promote the provision of flexible and responsive respite that involves extracurricular social engagement opportunities For Children and Young people with disabilities.	Model of flexible respite with social engagement opportunities articulated clearly and promoted across CYPSC.	Implementation Guide published and disseminated across CYPSC partners.  Expansion of clubs using the model in 3 areas of the county.	Develop a manual that articulates the Model and guides its implementation  Support the expansion of the Bluestack Foundation model of respite support.	2021  2021-2023	Bluestack Special Needs Foundation. Donegal Down Syndrome, Spraoi agus Sport, Autism Aware Northwest. Family Resource Centre Network, iCARE		Outcome 3: That children are safe and protected from harm  Outcome 2: Achieving potential in all areas of education & development.

## Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
Facilitating interagency collaboration in relation to mental health service development and delivery.	To promote holistic wellbeing by engaging those vulnerable to or at risk of mental health challenges in their lives.	Evidence of peer group activities attendance and evaluations.	200 young people engaging in events per year	Support the development and promotion of Fitness Festival events annually.	2021 2022 2023	Foróige including Donegal Youth Council, Jigsaw,	LECP Donegal Goal 4: National Youth Mental Health Taskforce Report 2017	Outcome 3; Safe and Protected from Harm
	To support collaboration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>in providing and promoting pathways to accessing young mental health services.</li> </ul>	Directory available	Mental Health Directory for Donegal. Print run funding permitting.	Develop a Mental Health Services Directory for Donegal.	2021/ 2022	HSE 'Connecting for Life Donegal', Jigsaw, Our Generation Project, FRC Network	NYCI Youth Health Programme 2018-2022	Transformational Goals: Support Parents
		Evidence of CYPSC Consultation Report in 'Our Generation' Project	CYPSC is a named participant agency in the project.	Provide CYPSC Consultation 2020 Report to feed into the development of 'Our Generation' Youth Mental Health and Emotional Resilience Project.	2021-2023	Donegal Youth Service, FRC Network, Cand V organisations	My World Survey 2, Jigsaw 2019	Early Intervention and Prevention
		Working group established	Information sharing, coordination of activities with other CYPSC Partners.	Promote and support the project.	2021-2023	Jigsaw Youth Participation Subcommittee	National Suicide Prevention Strategy	Inter-agency collaboration
	Referral Pathway in place		4-8 organisations engaged	Support the establishment of a working group to	2021- 2022	HSE Tusla FRC Network C&V sector	Connecting for Life Donegal	

## Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In building the capacity of all stakeholders in relation to promoting positive mental health and making appropriate referrals.</li> </ul>	<p>Needs analysis complete.</p> <p>Increased mental health literacy among frontline staff.</p>	<p>10 x interagency referrals annually</p> <p>20 organisation engaged</p> <p>20-40 participants annually</p> <p>8-10 organisations And 40 participants</p>	<p>develop referral pathway. Membership to include 2 Young people.</p> <p>Support agencies to conduct mental health awareness needs survey with front line staff and volunteers working with young people.</p> <p>Support the development and implementation of a 2 year mental health awareness /training plan for frontline staff and volunteers working with young people</p> <p>Host 1 Day virtual youth mental Health event for staff and volunteers working with young people</p>	<p>2021-2023</p> <p>2021- 2023</p> <p>2021</p> <p>2021</p>	<p>HSE Jigsaw Youth Participation Subcommittee HSE Tusla FRC Network C&amp;V sector</p>	<p>A Vision for Change Strategy for Mental Health Services.</p> <p>Mental Health Commission Strategy.</p>	

## Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
	<p>To contribute to the development / implementation of Connecting for Life Donegal Action Plan, particularly in relation to prevention and treatment of self-harm in children and young people.</p> <p>To promote interagency collaboration that can address and minimise the impact of Covid-19 on children and young people's mental health and on mental health services.</p>	<p>Children &amp; Young people's voices in evidence in Connecting for Life Donegal Action Plan.</p> <p>Interagency responses identified to impact of COVID 19 on children and young people's mental health and mental health services.</p>	<p>CYPSC is identified as a partner in the Connecting for Life Donegal Action Plan.</p> <p>Report on the Impact of COVID 19 on Children's and Young People's mental health and mental health services with recommendations for interagency responses.</p>	<p>Provide CYPSC Consultation 2020 Report and feed into the development of the new 'Connecting for Life' Action Plan.</p> <p>Sub Committee members gather information on the needs that arose as a result of COVID and the local responses.</p> <p>Hold a workshop to present this information and discuss / identify effective local responses.</p>	<p>2021</p> <p>2022</p>	<p>Jigsaw, HSE, Our Generation Project, Foroige, DYS, DTP, Involve, FRC Network,</p>		

## Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
Promoting and supporting inclusion and diversity in services and in communities.	To facilitate intercultural awareness and to support initiatives aiming to eliminate racism and discrimination in services and communities.	Number of agencies engaged in intercultural initiatives.	10 intercultural awareness workshops held per year 100 front line staff participating	Support and promote the delivery of intercultural awareness training to frontline staff to support service delivery in the context of cultural competency.	2021-2023	Donegal Traveller Project and Intercultural Platform, Refugee resettlement programme, Donegal County Childcare Committee, Lifestart Services, Tusla, HSE, Disability Services, Disability charities, Family Resource Centres,  Donegal Traveller Project and Intercultural Platform, Donegal Youth Services World Wide Voices Group DLDC Refugee resettlement programme.	LECP Donegal Goal 4: IHREC and ESRI Research-Attitudes to Diversity 2018	Outcome 3; Safe and Protected from Harm
			10 Agencies engaged in DiverseAware online training	Promote the DiverseAware 8 part online training programme to all CYPSC partner agencies.	2021 – 2023		National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021	Transformational Goals: Support Parents
	To provide accessible and appropriate information and services for parents, children and young people.	Agency engagement	10 number Agencies engaged	Inform agencies of the need for accessible culturally appropriate information and services for children, young people and their families from ethnic minority and Traveller and	2021-2023		Migrant Integration Strategy; A Blueprint for the Future 2016-2020	Early Intervention and Prevention
						National Resettlement Programme,	Inter-agency collaboration	Listen to and involve young people
						Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 re 'Public Duty'	Ensure quality services	Ensure quality services
						Health intercultural Strategy		

Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
		Number of health information Resources developed that meet the needs of ethnic minority families	Culturally sensitive Health promotion information Leaflets available In a minimum of 3 languages.	Roma backgrounds. Design and develop culturally appropriate health Information materials and videos, in an accessible format and language, for people from diverse ethnic, cultural / religious backgrounds.	2021-2023	Donegal Traveller Project and Intercultural Platform, Donegal Youth Services World Wide Voices Group. DLDC Refugee resettlement programme		
		Parents Own Plan App available and in use	10 X services engaged with the Parents Own Plan App. App linked to Parent Hub	Adapt the 'Parent Own Plan App' for County Donegal. Link to Parent Hub website	2021	Donegal County Childcare Committee, Tusla, HSE EIP, HSE Disability services, Disability sector organisations, FRC Network, CandV sector, Refugee resettlement Programme, FRC Network		Transformational Goals: Support parents Interagency collaboration Ensure effective services Early intervention and prevention
		Evidence of the level of use of the App across the county	100 new families per year using the POP App	Develop promotional materials.  Promote the App and monitor usage across the county	2021  2021-2023			

Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 1: Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
	To improve understanding of Disability through interagency collaboration in order to improve how agencies engage with children and young people with disabilities.	Needs analysis available  Level of uptake of training Number of agencies engaged	Training Plan for the support of frontline staff in engagement with Children and Young people with disability.	Support agencies conduct a training needs analysis of frontline staff ref inclusion of children and young people with disabilities or additional needs in mainstream activities.  Scope out the availability of training. Support the delivery of training. Source funding.	2021          2022	Tusla, HSE, FRC Network, Autism Service, Bluestack Foundation, iCARE, Spraoi agus Sport, Downs Syndrome Donegal, Foróige, IDP and others.	National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021	

## Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
Supporting an inclusive approach to the development of children and young people.	To develop parents' awareness of the importance of play, reading to and with children in learning and development.	Inclusion of MACE Programmes in CYPSC Communications Plan.	100 Early years children and parents	Support the rollout of MACE programmes on play and attachment: 'Look Say Sing Play', Including training and resources for frontline staff	2021	MACE Project partnered with NSPCC Foróige Teen Parent Support Project	Spratt, T. and Kennedy, M. (2020) Adverse Childhood Experiences: Developments in Trauma and Resilience Aware Services. The British Journal of Social Work, 0, pp. 1-19,	Outcome 1; Active and Healthy, Physical and Mental Wellbeing.
		Number of new Registrations and items borrowed	Circulation of information, Monthly updates on social media. Inclusion of programmes in Newsletter	To build on the Bookworm Babies Project. Children and Parents registered with the library	2021	Donegal County Childcare Committee Lifestart Services Donegal Travellers Project, Foróige, FRC Network	National Strategy to improve Literacy and Numeracy among children and young people 2011-2020	Transformational Goals: Support Parents. Early Intervention and prevention Interagency collaboration
		Number of books distributed	100 new library cards annually 1500 borrowed items annually	Update Babbling Babies Multilingual Nursery Rhyme book	Q4 2020 – 2023	Lifestart Services, Library service HSE FRC Network Foróige Teen Parent Support Project	Cultúr: Strategic Vison for Cultural Services 2016-2020	
		No of sessions with parent and toddler groups No of sessions with ECCE practitioners	5,000 Books distributed	Roll out of Creating Lifelong Readers with parent and toddler groups	2021-2022	Lifestart Services, Library Service, HSE Health Promotion, Donegal County Childcare Committee FRC Network	Our Public Libraries 2022 Right to Read Campaign: Supporting Literacy in the Local Authority	
			6 sessions annually 3 workshops annually		2021, 2022,2023 Q1 in 2021, 2022, 2023			



## Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
		Report re community engagement with READ DL.	40% of Primary Schools 60% Post primary schools 100% Youth reach	Annual READ DL Community Literacy Project, Reading writing and creative programmes.	2021, 2022, 2023	Read DL Committee Donegal ETB, LYIT, Library Service, Schools, FRC Network		
	To disseminate information on the availability of childcare places.	Regular updates on ParentHub	Parents have up to date information on places available	Act as a conduit for information on the availability of Childcare places.	2021	Donegal County Childcare Committee ParentHub, IDP Inishowen Childcare Network		
	To support childcare staff to develop empathy in young children.	Research report	Complete desk research	To support lead agency conduct research ref evidence informed programmes to support childcare providers and parents instil Empathy in children.	2022 2023	Donegal County Childcare committee Childcare providers Lifestart Services FRC Network Donegal Traveller Project		
		Programme in place.	Programme developed and piloted with 3 agencies.	To develop/ adapt a programme for Donegal. Seek funding ref delivery.				

## Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
Collaborating to improve educational attainment and participation of children and young people with a focus on the vulnerable and those from ethnic minorities	To collaboratively build Smarter Communities through the development of access to digital devices for learning and building digital literacy skills among families.	Scoping Report	Awareness of level of need around digital literacy in families	Support lead agency conduct a scoping exercise ref the need for support around digital literacy.	2021	Donegal County Council, Library Service, Inishowen Development Partnership, Donegal Local Development, Donegal ETB, FRC Network	Digital Strategy for Schools 2015-2020	
		Plan in place with stakeholders engaged	4 CYPSC partner agencies signed up engaged in developing and implementing the plan.	Develop a digital literacy skills plan to support children, young people and their families. Seek funding	2021-2022		Cultúr: Strategic Vision for Cultural Services 2016-2020	
	Awareness of digital literacy supports available	CYPSC Partners aware of digital literacy supports.	Promote and raise awareness of Medlit Platform – free online tool for basic IT	2022-2023	Our Public Libraries 2022			
	Promotional materials developed and shared			2021	IDP MedLit project online platform and new programme Digital Literacy for Ladies (DLL) which will include mapping women in IT. Report on existing research on the gender gap in IT and how to decrease this gap, female role models in IT, good practices etc.			
Promote initiatives that support the participation of children and young people who experience	Schools Refusals Toolkit in use in Donegal	Publication of Donegal Schools Refusals Toolkit	Adapt the Roscommon Schools Refusal Toolkit for use in Donegal.	2021-2023	Education Welfare service, Donegal ETB, School Completion Programme, CYPSC Education and			

## Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
	<p>disadvantage because of ethnic or socio-economic background.</p> <p>To promote alternatives to in-school education and support young people to access the pathways available to them.</p>	<p>Identification of appropriate online education support</p> <p>Engagement of stakeholders</p> <p>Number of participating young people. Engagement of service providers</p>	<p>Programme selected and if appropriate piloted in 3 areas.</p> <p>Welcome Packs launched Packs shared with communities</p> <p>200 participants In promotional event.</p>	<p>Promote a Donegal based Schools Refusal Toolkit</p> <p>Investigate the potential for county wide delivery of the JumpAGrade (<i>an online educational support for second-level students to help them fulfil their potential</i>)</p> <p>Support the rollout of the Library multilingual welcome pack</p> <p>Support the Inclusive Training and Lifestyle Fair for young people with a disability or additional needs. (<i>pending public health advice</i>)</p>	<p>Q4 2020 Q2 2021</p> <p>Q2 2021</p> <p>2021</p> <p>2022 - 2023</p>	<p>Learning partners, Donegal Travellers Project, Intercultural Platform Schools HSE, Inishowen Development Partnership, School competition Programme, Educational welfare service FRC network Inishowen development Partnership Donegal ETB Schools School Completion</p>	<p>Right to Read Campaign: Supporting Literacy in the Local Authority</p>	

## Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
		Resource Guide available and disseminated to young people and frontline staff and shared	1000 Resource Guides printed and disseminated and Online version available.	In response to COVID restrictions, Develop an Alternative Pathways Resource Guide for young people.	2021-2022	Subcommittees: Economic Wellbeing and Disability Equality, Education and Learning, Youth Participation, Employment response Northwest. New Horizons Partnership Family Resource Centre Network, IDP, Foróige	IDP - Youth Entrepreneurship and mentor programme being developed currently	
Promoting and supporting arts and cultural programmes to enhance learning in schools, homes and the community	To promote intercultural understanding in schools and communities through the Arts.  To develop initiatives that build on the work of Donegal County Council's Cultúr	Donegal version of 'Working in Intercultural Contexts'  Evidence of CYPSC involvement in the new Cultúr Strategy	Action plan for working in cultural contexts in Donegal  CYPSC named as partner in implementation of local Cultur Strategy.	Adapt the use of the 'Working in Intercultural Contexts' document with CYPSC partners  Include the voice of children and young people in the review of the current Cultúr	2021-2023  2022 - 2023	Libraries, Inishowen Development Partnership, Donegal Local Development, Donegal Travellers Project, Culture Division CYPSC Youth Participation Subcommittee,	Cultúr: Strategic Vision for Cultural Services 2016-2020  Our Public Libraries 2022	

## Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
	strategy and the Right to Read Campaign.	Evidence of CYPSC involvement in the Donegal Right to Read Annual Plan		Strategy and development of new plan  Include CYPSC Education and Learning Subcommittee in the review of the previous plan and development of the new Culture Division Strategy		FRC Network  Culture Division Related partners from CYPSC Education and Learning Subcommittee, FRC Network	Right to Read Campaign: Supporting Literacy in the Local Authority	

## Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
Addressing the needs of children and young people experiencing domestic violence in the home.	To develop domestic violence resource materials and programmes for people working with children and young people.	Donegal Domestic Violence Toolkit available	E version distributed to 40 organisations. 1000 copies printed	Adapt and print the Roscommon Domestic Violence toolkit for use in Donegal.	Q3 2021	CYPSC Domestic Violence working group, Tusla, Donegal Domestic Violence Service, Women's Centre, Gardaí, CandV sector	Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence 2016-2021 COSC	Nat. Outcome 1- Healthy and Active Physical and Mental wellbeing.
		TLC Kidz Programme available and supported in County Donegal	TLC Kidz programme to be introduced and piloted with 6 families	Support the establishment and progress of a TLC advisory group	2021	CYPSC Safe and Secure Subcommittee Tusla, Donegal Domestic Violence Service, Gardaí, Springboard, Lifestart Services, PPFS	Changing culture and Transforming the Response to Domestic Violence in Ireland 2015-2020 – Safe Ireland	Transformational Goals: Support Parents, Early Intervention and Prevention. Listening to and involving Children, Interagency collaboration.
		Letter/ representations to Dept. Justice /Others.	Subsequently delivered to 10 families per annum	Advocate to Dept. of Justice for and support the establishment of the MOVE programme in Donegal.	2021-2023		Barnardos Evaluation TLC Kidz	
	To ensure services available to men overcoming violence in other parts of the country are available in Donegal.	MOVE Established	Establishment of the MOVE service for Donegal		2021/2022		MOVE Ireland Strategic Plan 2020-2024 MOVE Annual Report 2019	
					2022	CYPSC, Probation Service, Tusla, Donegal Domestic Violence Service, Gardaí, Donegal Women's Centre		

## Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
	To develop awareness on 'the toxic trio' and their impact on children – domestic violence, mental health and substance misuse.	Agency Engagement  Expert Forum established enabling an inter-agency discussion on cases.	3X learning events  Expert Forum facilitating interagency case studies.	Promote communication and share learning between the relevant agencies in relation to Domestic violence, Mental Health and Substance misuse.  Set up a Confidential Forum of Experts: to support front line staff and discuss cases across agencies	2021 - 2023	Tusla, Donegal Domestic Violence Service, Women's Centre , ETB Alcohol and other Drugs Training Officer, Alcohol Forum Donegal MACE Project Jigsaw  HSE Mental Health and Addiction Services, Domestic Violence Service	Alcohol and other Drugs Education and Training North West Region Programme,  My World Survey 2012 and 2019 - Jigsaw  Connecting for Life, National Strategy to Reduce Suicide 2015-2020  Sharing the vision Policy 2020	
Supporting children and young people to understand what it means to feel safe and to develop skills accordingly.	To promote a collaborative approach to initiatives for parents, children and front line staff in relation to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cyber safety</li> <li>Online bullying</li> </ul>	Evidence of collaborations.	1 Networking/ Partner Finding event/s or Webinar per year.  3 collaborations established per year for example joint funding	Facilitate an annual Partner Finding Event	2020 -2023	CYPSC subcommittees, Foróige, Donegal Youth Service, Donegal Women's Centre	National Sexual Health Policy 2020  HSE Sexual Health Promotion Training Strategy 2019-2029	Nat. Outcome 1- Healthy and Active Physical and Mental wellbeing.  Transformational Goals: Inter agency Collaboration. Ensure quality

## Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sexual relationships</li> <li>Road safety</li> <li>Alcohol and other Drugs</li> </ul>	<p>Parental access to updated information on digital safety.</p> <p>Evidence of the Delivery of a suite of training: Stand-alone training and Inservice requested tailored training, delivered across the county to a range of agencies.</p>	<p>applications, replication of best practice.</p> <p>1000 copies printed and distributed</p> <p>200 participants' p/a</p>	<p>Develop updated 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Parents Guide to Digital Safety in print and e version.</p> <p>Promote and support the delivery of a suite of online/ face to face or blended, Alcohol and other Drugs Training Programme: <i>Cannabis, Cocaine, Women and Substances, QQI level 5 Community Addiction Studies, Motivational Interviewing, Creating your wellbeing plan), New Psychoactive substances and emerging training needs as they present</i></p>	<p>2022</p> <p>2021 - 2023</p>	<p>Donegal Youth Service, Tusla,</p> <p>Donegal ETB Alcohol and other Drugs Education and Training Officer, NW Regional Drug and Alcohol Taskforce, Tusla, HSE, DCC, CandV sector, Family Resource Centre Network, Women's Centre</p>	<p>'Reducing Harm, supporting recovery: health led approach to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017-2025'</p>	<p>services. Listen to and involve Children and Young People</p>



## Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
Building resilience in children and young people.	To support parents and children: Managing transitions and times of significant change. Managing stress.	Evidence of promotion of the MACE cross border project.	Circulation of information, Monthly updates on social media. Inclusion of programmes in Newsletter	Support the rollout of MACE programmes on Circles on Security, ACEs Aware Communities, Trauma informed practice.	2021-2023	MACE Project in collaboration with CYPSC. FRC network, CFSNs Trauma Informed Networks Community & Voluntary Sector	Article: "The effect of multiple adverse childhood experiences on health: a systematic review and meta-analysis" Prof Karen Hughes et al. The Lancet Aug 2017	Nat. Outcome 1- Healthy and Active Physical and Mental wellbeing. Transformational Goals: Support Parents, Early Intervention and Prevention, Listening to and involving Children, Interagency collaboration.
	To support the inclusion of parents, children and young people resident in IPAS centres	Evidence of communication with IPAS centre staff.  Evidence of resident's engagement with social, sporting, educational and recreational activities in the wider community.	As above.  Representation on CYPSC.  Engagement of Children, Young people and parents in local activities	CYPSC Presentation to key IPAS Centre Staff. IPAS representative on CYPSC SC  Support the inclusion of this cohort of children and young people in social, sporting, educational and recreational activities.	2021  2021  2021 -2023	IHREC and ESRI Research Report "Hidden versus revealed Attitudes: A List Experiment on support for Minorities in Ireland" 2020  Migrant Integration Strategy 2017-2020		

Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
Promoting equality of opportunity to further education and training.	To support young people to access alternative pathways to education and skills development, including entrepreneurship.	Working group in place.	Working group report on alternative pathways	Establish a working group to review alternative pathways and develop information resources targeting early school leavers, YP with a disability and new communities. Communications plan.	2022	Donegal ETB DLDC IDP LEO Foróige	"Youth employment strategies Ireland" OECD 2014	Outcome 2- Achieving in all areas of learning and Development.
		Information Resource available and distributed	Dissemination of information resource by 6 key agencies	2022	IDP - Youth Entrepreneurship and mentor programme being developed currently			
	Awareness of Youth entrepreneurship and social enterprise in Donegal	Countywide scoping exercise completed	Conduct a scoping exercise re Youth Entrepreneurship and Social Enterprise programmes in Donegal.	2023				
To support collaboration ref establishment of training and education options with on-site childcare, targeting marginalised young parents.	Evidence of interagency collaboration in provision of training courses for young parents.	Minimum of 4 agencies engaged. Recommendations in place.	Facilitate discussion with key agencies ref provision of training courses for young parents, with onsite childcare, targeting Teens, Traveller, Roma, resettled refugee parents and new communities. Develop recommendations/action	2023	DTP, DLDC, Tusla, DCCC, Foróige,	IHREC and ESRI Research- Attitudes to Diversity 2018	Transformational Goals: Supporting Parents Early intervention and Prevention, Ensure quality services, Strengthen transitions, Inter-agency collaboration	
							Migrant	Transformational Goals: Early intervention and Prevention, Strengthen Transitions, Inter-agency collaboration

## Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
	<p>To provide supports to young people with disabilities to access education and employment opportunities.</p> <p>To develop a Disability Statement for CYPSC.</p>	<p>Directory of services available</p> <p>Engagement of agencies and targeted cohort of young people</p> <p>Donegal CYPSC Statement on Disability completed</p>	<p>Directory of services E version available. Hard copy pending funding</p> <p>Annual Event (pending public health advice)</p> <p>10 Agencies engaged</p>	<p>plan.</p> <p>Update Donegal Directory of Disability Services. Distribute across agencies in Donegal.</p> <p>Progressive pathways event for young people with a disability or additional needs. Establish links with relevant recruitment agencies.</p> <p>Engage with DESSA to develop a Donegal CYPSC Disability statement</p>	<p>2021. 2022, 2023,</p> <p>2021 2022, 2023 (dependent on funding and Public Health Guidance)</p> <p>2021</p>	<p>Bluestack Foundation, LYIT, iCARE, Donegal Down Syndrome, Autism Northwest, etc Tusla, DLDC, HSE, DCC, IDP, DSP, CandV sector</p> <p>DESSA All CYPSC partners</p>	<p>Integration Strategy; A Blueprint for the Future 2016-2020</p> <p>National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021</p> <p>IHREC and ESRI Research, Disability and Discrimination in Ireland: Evidence from the QNHS Equality Modules 2004, 2010, 2014 October 2018</p>	
Tackling economic disadvantage.	To facilitate food security initiatives for families.	Awareness among agencies and engagement with report recommendations.	Report on COVID Response: -Numbers/profile of recipients -How recipients were identified, - -Agencies involved and supports	Compile data and information on COVID 19 response activities- Food distribution, voluntary and statutory contributions. (Chef Aid, FEAD prog, Food Banks, Food Cloud,	Q1 2021	Economic Wellbeing Subcommittee Lifestart Services, FRCs, DCC,	ESRI July 2020- Child poverty in Ireland and the pandemic recession  ESRI July 2020: The Implications	Outcome 1- Active and Health, Physical and Mental Wellbeing. Outcome 3- Safe and Protected from Harm

## Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee

### Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity

Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
	To identify the scale of 'couch surfing' families and young people and develop an interagency response.	Awareness among agencies and engagement with report recommendations.	provided Report on needs underlying issues and responses.	SvP, funded responses) Conduct a needs assessment ref numbers, underlying cause/issues and agencies responding.	2023	DCC, DTP Homeless Action Team, Youth organisations, FRC Network.	of the COVID 19 Pandemic for Policy in relation to Children and Young People. A Research Review IDP Local Development Plans	Transformational Goals: Supporting Parents Early intervention and Prevention, Strengthen Transitions, Inter-agency collaboration
	To examine the impact of online learning on overcoming geographical barriers to accessing training, education and employment.	Awareness among agencies and engagement with report recommendations.	Report on needs and underlying issues Has participation increased/decreased -Has the geographical reach changed? -Implications COVID Has this impacted on transport as a barrier to training and education?	Undertake a research project to ascertain how online provision (COVID response) impacted on organisations that provide countywide service/training.	2022	Not confirmed: Donegal ETB, CandV, DCC, LYIT, SCPs		
	To identify the impact of transport on children and young people's economic security and opportunity.	Awareness among agencies and engagement with report recommendation.	10 agencies engaged	Research current transport provision, identify the gaps and impacts on young people's labour market participation and social activities.				

Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
Promoting inclusion and diversity.	Collaborate in the provision of diversity training for all stakeholders.	Evidence of training provision, attendance and evaluation.	Training piloted  10 X CYPSC partner organisations engage with this training.	Pilot Online Diversity and Cultural Competency training (Building intercultural Communities Project)  Promote and Collaborate in the roll out of this training to staff across all CYPSC Member organisations.	Q1 2021  2023	Donegal Traveller Project, FRC Network CYPSC partner organisations	IHREC and ESRI Research Report "Hidden versus revealed Attitudes: A List Experiment on support for Minorities in Ireland" 2020  Migrant Integration Strategy 2017-2020 -	Outcome 1- Active and Health, Physical and Mental Wellbeing. Outcome 3- Safe and Protected from Harm Transformational Goals: EIP, Strengthen Transitions, Inter-agency collaboration

Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
Facilitating ongoing dialogue between agencies and children and young people	<p>To coordinate communication processes between and across youth participation structures and Donegal CYPSC.</p> <p>To develop mechanisms for young people to have a voice in the planning of youth facilities, parks, housing estates etc.</p>	<p>Knowledge of Youth participation structures.</p> <p>Pathway document available</p> <p>Evidence of training and level of participation</p> <p>Evidence of dialogue.</p>	<p>Mapping complete</p> <p>Pathway available 10X agencies engaged</p> <p>Mechanism for engagement and consultation</p> <p>10 agencies engaged</p>	<p>Map existing youth participation structures.</p> <p>Develop a pathway for organisations on how to engage young people prior to consultation activities.</p> <p>Promote Youth Participation Training</p> <p>Develop a mechanism to support regular dialogue with young people that can inform the work of multiple agencies</p>	<p>Q2 2021</p> <p>Q4 2021</p> <p>2021-2023</p>	Foróige including Donegal Youth Council Tusla, Jigsaw, Donegal Youth Service, DCC, DCCC, CandV, HSE Disability service, Disability Charities and Peer Support groups.	<p>Better Outcomes Brighter Futures 2015-2020</p> <p>National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making 2015-2020</p> <p>Child and Youth Participation Strategy Tusla 2019-2023</p> <p>National Youth Strategy 2015-2020</p>	Cross cutting all National Outcomes Transformational Goals: Inter-agency collaboration.

Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
Building socially inclusive communities.	<p>To respond to the issues raised during the CYPSC Planning consultation 2020.</p> <p>To facilitate disability inclusion in sports and recreational activity.</p>	Subcommittee Action Plan	6 key activities with indicators and targets	<p>To develop a plan of work that tackles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Accessibility in all youth clubs, sports and recreational spaces.</li> <li>-Opportunities to engage in the community through Arts and Culture</li> <li>-Youth Leadership and Volunteerism</li> <li>-Anti-racism and anti-discrimination Campaign</li> <li>- Greener communities</li> </ul>	2023	<p>Donegal Sports Partnership</p> <p>Bluestack Foundation, Foróige Donegal Youth Services</p>	<p>IHREC and ESRI Research, Disability and Discrimination in Ireland: Evidence from the QNHS Equality Modules 2004, 2010, 2014 October 2018</p> <p>Donegal Sports Cultúr Strategy</p> <p>Migrant Integration Strategy 2017-2020 - Actions under Anti-Racism and Promoting Interculturalism</p>	

Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Transformational Goals - Change Management								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
Child and Youth Participation	To support a strategic approach to child and youth participation across CYPSC partner agencies.	Evidence of Child and Youth participation	Subcommittee implementing Actions under Outcome 5	Establish a Youth Participation Subcommittee.	Q2 2021  Q4 2021	Foróige Tusla, Jigsaw, Donegal Youth Council, Donegal Youth Service, DCC, DCCC, CandV	Better Outcomes Brighter Futures 2015-2020  National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making 2015-2020	Outcome 5: Connected Respected and contributing  Transformational Goals; Inter-agency collaboration.
Interagency Initiatives	To facilitate individual agencies to share training with other agencies  To improve understanding of Disability through inter-agency collaboration in order to improve how agencies engage with children and young people with disabilities	Evidence of inter-agency engagement  Level of agency engagement with the Framework  Level of agency implementation of the Framework	10 X Agencies per year undertake interagency training  10 X Agencies engaged	To support and promote interagency training initiatives.  Develop a Donegal CYPSC Framework for Disability	2021-2023  2022	CYPSC Partner agencies  CYPSC, Tusla, Donegal County Council, Gardaí, Community and Voluntary sector	Child and Youth Participation Strategy Tusla 2019-2023  National Youth Strategy 2015-2020	



Transformational Goals – Change Management								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) and/or Transformational Goal(s)
Alignment with other local plans	To work towards the alignment of the CYPP with other local plans	Evidence of CYPSC input in Plans.	Plans impacting on children and young people are complimentary	<p>Provide CYPSC Consultation Report to local agencies to support alignment of CYPP 2021-2023 with: 'Connecting for Life' Mental Health Plan</p> <p>To contribute to the development of the 'Local Economic Community Plan'.</p> <p>To present the CYPP 2021-2023 to agencies, planning groups.</p>	2021-2023	Donegal County Council Donegal ETB, HSE,	Better Outcomes Brighter Futures	Transformational Goals; Inter-agency collaboration
Ensure effective use of CYPSC funding	To make best use of available financial resources to support the implementation of the CYPP 2021-2023	Recommendations to CYPSC and decision recorded in Minutes. Record of funding allocation	Transparent funding processes	Work with CYPSC Coordinator on the Expression of Interest Process re CYPSC allocated funding: BOBF, HIF, Other. Make recommendations to CYPSC	2021-2023	Change Management Subcommittee. Donegal CYPSC		

Action Plan for Donegal Children and Young People's Services Committee								
Transformational Goals – Support Parents								
Priority Area	Objective(s)	Indicators	Target	Activities	Timeframe for completion	Lead Responsibility and partners	Link to other plans	Linked to other national outcome(s) ? Transformational Goal(s)
Parent Hub	To support and promote parenting support opportunities across the county	<p>Information on Parent support and training opportunities are distributed widely</p> <p>Profile of the Parent Support Initiative is raised appropriate to the development of the service</p> <p>Parent Hub Donegal website is accessible via the App.</p> <p>Engagement of services and parents</p>	<p>Sub-Committee established</p> <p>Information dissemination</p> <p>Information dissemination</p> <p>Link Parent Hub to Parents Own Plan All</p> <p>10 Agencies engaged and encouraging the use of the App among service users</p>	<p>Establish Parent Hub as a CYPSC Subcommittee</p> <p>To promote and support the activities of the Parent Support Champions</p> <p>To support and promote the activities of the Parent Support Initiative</p> <p>Ensure the ParentHub Website is linked to Donegal Parents Own Plan App. Encourage the use of the App among agencies</p>	<p>Q1 2021</p> <p>2021-2023</p> <p>2021- 2023</p> <p>2021- 2023</p> <p>2021-2023</p>	<p>Parent Hub members</p> <p>Parent Hub members All CYPSC Subcommittees</p>	<p>Better Outcomes Brighter Futures 2015-2020</p> <p>First 5, A Whole-of-Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families 2019-2028</p> <p>Investing in Families: Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Parenting Support Strategy Supporting Parents to Improve Outcomes for Children 2013.</p>	<p>Outcome 1: Healthy and Active</p> <p>Outcome 3: Safe and protected from Harm,</p> <p>Transformational Goals: Earlier intervention and Prevention, Ensure quality Services, Inter-agency collaboration</p>

## Section 7: Monitoring and Review

This Donegal Children and Young People's Plan covers the period 2021-2023, outlining our objectives across identified priority areas. Donegal CYPSC will work with its partner agencies, children, young people, their families and communities to implement the actions outlined in this work plan.

Donegal CYPSC follows the national CYPSC structures and requirements for monitoring and review as laid out in the CYPSC Planning and Reporting Framework. In the first quarter of the year, each Donegal CYPSC Subcommittee develops an individual Annual work plan. Based on this annual plan a reporting template is developed by the Coordinator, for each Subcommittee. Progress can be recorded into this template by the Subcommittee Chair at each meeting. The Chair of each Subcommittee sits on the CYPSC Committee. The reporting template supports the Subcommittee Chair to provide a progress report to each CYPSC meeting and also supports the development of the CYPSC Annual Progress Report.

The Annual Progress Report is based on both the Coordinator's regular Progress Reports to CYPSC drawn up prior to each CYPSC meeting and the Subcommittee Reports to CYPSC. It is developed in December of each year and presented to CYPSC at the following meeting in January.

The Donegal CYPSC Coordinator also provides an Annual Progress report to the Tusla Regional Operations Review. A further Annual Progress Report, which seeks a different type of information, is completed on-line for National CYPSC Coordination. An audit of agency membership and engagement with Donegal CYPSC and Subcommittees is also carried out in December each year.

The Mid-term Review is carried out in discussion format in the CYPSC meeting and feeds into work planning. The Annual Progress Report highlights completed actions and ongoing work areas to be included in the following Annual work plan and notes any issues arising that impacts on completion of the work plan.

The CYPP 2021-2023 contains a number of research based actions relating to:

- The engagement of Young Carers and Young people who identify as LGBTI with Community and Voluntary service providers
- A scoping exercise on the need for support around digital literacy
- Compile data on the local response to needs arising as a result of COVID19 re poverty
- The impact of online learning on overcoming geographical barriers to accessing training education and employment
- Training needs analysis on Mental health awareness for frontline staff
- Training needs analysis on the inclusion of Young people with disability or additional needs into mainstream activities for frontline staff and volunteers
- A needs analysis on numbers and underlying cause / issues of Couch surfing among youth and families and agencies responding
- A scoping exercise on local transport provision, identifying gaps and the impact on young people's participation in the labour market, recreational and social activities.

The research reports will, as appropriate

- Guide further CYPSC activities
- Be used to advocate for support for Donegal
- Support collaborative funding applications
- Feed into Countywide planning process, such as the Local Economic Community Plan

As part of this CYPP, Donegal CYPSC will establish a Youth Participation Subcommittee, tasked with developing a mechanism to facilitate ongoing dialogue between CYPSC and partner agencies and children, Young people and their families. The Young Adult representative to CYPSC and continued collaboration with the Donegal Youth Council will form part of this dialogue.

## Section 8: Appendices

### Appendix 1: Terms of Reference - Donegal CYPSC

#### Donegal Children and Young Peoples Services Committee - Terms of reference

##### 1. Purpose and Mandate:

The central purpose of the Donegal Children and Young Peoples Services Committee (CYPSC) will be to provide strategic direction and leadership to ensure effective interagency co-ordination and collaboration to achieve the best outcomes for all children and young people in County Donegal. Donegal CYPSC will act as the structure whereby services can work together in a systematic manner to achieve shared goals and which bridge national policy with local provision. The mandate for CYPSC has developed from Government policy over time and is renewed in the context of *Better Outcomes Better Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014 – 2020*.

##### 2. Remit:

Donegal CYPSC is the key vehicle for interagency working for children and young people in the age range 0-24 year (inclusive), reflecting the different developmental phases and associated needs and challenges of each stage of childhood, youth and extending into early adulthood. The work of Donegal CYPSC adheres to the concept of progressive universalism and spans policy areas and service provision, from the universal to targeted services and supports for children and young people.

##### 3. Functions of the Donegal CYPSC

Donegal CYPSC will develop and implement a 3 year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) designed to improve outcomes for children and young people in County Donegal. The CYPP will be informed by the CYPSC member agencies, have a specific regard for the voice of children and young people and be linked to all partner agency service plans including other local and regional plans such as the Donegal Local Economic and Community Plan. The CYPP outlines Donegal CYPSC priorities and includes:

- A socio-demographic profile of County Donegal
- An audit of services for children and young people in County Donegal
- An analysis of the needs of children and young people living in County Donegal
- A detailed action plan mapping the committee's planned actions to respond to its priorities

Donegal CYPSC members will work together to leverage and make best use of existing funding to deliver on the objectives of the Donegal CYPP. Donegal CYPSC Members will consider the wider knowledge and experience of the committee in relation to identifying local need and effective, evidence informed responses, to inform their organisations priorities, actions and services going forward. *(This approach is informed by Commitment G68 of 'Better Outcomes, Better Futures', which commits to: 'Use intelligence from Children and Young Peoples Services Committees in relation to local need and priorities to inform the allocation of national and local funding streams')*

Where funding opportunities arise, the best placed CYPSC member Agency will make the application and act as lead agency for that piece of work.

##### 4. Membership

In selecting the membership of Donegal CYPSC, every effort will be made to ensure there is an appropriate skill mix and range of expertise/experience. Membership of the Donegal CYPSC will be sufficiently flexible to ensure that as the work of the Donegal CYPSC develops the required range of representatives across all associated agencies and sectors are invited to attend. ***It is important that membership is drawn from the most senior rank possible from each agency and stakeholder group.*** Membership of CYPSC will also include 2 Youth Representatives from the Donegal Youth Council, a Young Adult Representative in the 18 -24 year age group and the CYPSC Subcommittee Chairs.

## 5. Roles and Responsibilities:

The key responsibilities of the Chairperson are as follows:

- *Chair meetings of Donegal CYPSC and manage all proceedings*
- *Provide leadership and direction*
- *Ensure participation and contributions from all members*
- *Ensure appropriate interaction between the CYPSC and external stakeholders*
- *Communicate a clear sense of purpose and direction on behalf of the Donegal CYPSC*
- *Ensure the effectiveness of Donegal CYPSC in all aspects of its role including the development and implementation of the Donegal Children and Young Peoples Plan (CYPP)*

The key responsibilities of the Vice Chairperson are as follows:

- *The Vice Chairperson will be a representative from the local authority i.e. Donegal County Council*
- *Provide support to the Chairperson in the performance of his/her duties*
- *If the Chairperson is unavailable, to take the role of Chairperson for that meeting*
- *Ensure an appropriate balance between the voice of the Chairperson's organisation and that of the other member organisations*

The key responsibilities of the CYPSC Co-ordinator are as follows:

- *Support the establishment and development of the Donegal CYPSC and its sub-groups*
- *Communicate a clear sense of purpose and direction on behalf of the Donegal CYPSC*
- *Co-ordinate the development and implementation of Donegal CYPSC's 3 year CYPP*
- *Foster and develop relationships with key personnel including CYPSC members, Sub-Committee members, CYPSC working groups and other external stakeholders, agencies and service providers*
- *Assist the overall committee and sub committees to implement the 3 year work plan and monitor progress in line with the five national outcomes for children and young people as set out in 'Better Outcomes, Better Futures'*

The key responsibilities of the CYPSC Members are as follows:

- *All members of the Donegal CYPSC are expected to fulfil their role by actively contributing to the proceedings of the CYPSC and by maintaining a strong link between the CYPSC and their respective organisations at all times*
- *Fully participate in the development and implementation of the Donegal Children and Young Peoples Plan*
- *Actively engage in the workings of CYPSC, the Sub-Committees and their respective working groups on an on-going basis*
- *Drive the implementation of the CYPSC's objectives and work plan within their respective organisations, within CYPSC and Sub/Working groups*
- *Report, as required to CYPSC on implementation progress of the CYPSC objectives within their respective organisation*
- *Keep Donegal CYPSC informed of all relevant policy and/or operational decisions within their respective organisations*

## 6. Meetings

- *Where possible, all meetings will be chaired by the County Manager, Tusla. In the event that the CYPSC Chair is not available, the Vice Chair will chair the Meeting*
- *A meeting quorum will be 6 members of Donegal CYPSC*

- Decisions made by consensus i.e. members are satisfied with the decision even though it may not be their first choice. If not possible, CYPSC Chairperson makes the final decision.
- Meetings will be held 5 times a year. Dates will be decided by Donegal CYPSC at the beginning of each year.
- Meetings will have a maximum duration of 2 - 2.5 hours. Specific pieces of work such as CYPP planning events or Presentations to CYPSC where a greater time commitment is required will be discussed and decided by the CYPSC in advance as required.
- Meeting agendas and supporting documents will be prepared by the CYPSC Chairperson and Co-ordinator and circulated 1 week prior to each CYPSC meeting.
- In the event that administrative support cannot be accessed from among the CYPSC Membership organisations, Minutes will be taken by members of the Donegal CYPSC on a rotating basis, decided at the previous meeting.
- Typed minutes will be emailed to the CYPSC Co-ordinator within one week of each meeting for filing and circulation. The Co-ordinator will supply a template for CYPSC Minutes.
- Each CYPSC member will supply a written report to the CYPSC members on the progress of the Sub-committees and/or Working groups they represent.

## 7. Sub-committees

Donegal CYPSC will establish sub committees aligned to the national outcomes and transformation goals in *'Better Outcomes, Better Futures'* as follows:

- ❖ Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing
  - ❖ Achieving full potential in learning and development
  - ❖ Safe and protected from harm
  - ❖ Economic security and opportunity
  - ❖ Connected, respected and contributing to their world
  - ❖ Transformational Goals and Emerging issues
- Each Sub-committee will consist of a mix of operational and strategic staff. It is envisaged that all Sub-committee members will discuss potential actions of the CYPSC internally within their respective organisations.
  - Each Sub-committee will agree a Terms of Reference and develop a 3 year action plan to guide their work and to feed into the Children and Young Peoples Plan. (Supported by the CYPSC Coordinator)
  - As a standing item at each CYPSC meeting; the Chairperson or representative of each sub-committee will provide a written progress update and will in turn, relay information from the CYPSC meeting to their respective sub-committee.
  - Subcommittees may also develop working groups to address specific issues or areas of work and will ensure that working group members are informed of developments of Donegal CYPSC. Working groups will also provide a progress report to their Sub-Committee as a standing item.
  - It is envisaged that the Working groups will also play a leading role in managing the future implementation of their respective action plans with relevant input from CYPSC members as required.

**8. Branding of CYPSC Events**

All events or pieces of work undertaken by Donegal CYPSC should be branded with the CYPSC logo. The CYPSC logo represents all stakeholder organisations.

To facilitate a lead organisation funding the work / activity, the logo of the lead organisation will be added. The criteria stipulated by the funding body will be followed and the relevant logo/branding given prominence.

**9. Reporting Mechanism**

Donegal CYPSC will submit a progress report to the National Co-ordinator annually. This report will be informed by Donegal CYPSC membership and compiled by the CYPSC Co-ordinator in accordance with the Planning and Reporting Framework for CYPSC.

**10. Review and Evaluation**

Donegal CYPSC, led by the Chairperson, will undertake an annual review and evaluation of its performance, based on the goals and targets as outlined in the Donegal CYPP.

**11. Term, Amendments or Modification of Terms of Reference**

These Terms of Reference are effective from 2020 and may be reviewed, amended or modified in writing after consultation and agreement by Donegal CYPSC members as required with a minimum regularity of every 3 years.

## **Appendix 2: Organisations represented on Donegal CYPSC Subcommittees:**

### **Outcome 1: Are active and healthy, with positive physical and mental wellbeing**

#### **1. Health and Wellbeing Subcommittee:**

Foróige  
Health Service Executive  
Inishowen Development Partnership  
Jigsaw  
Donegal Youth Service  
Donegal Traveller Project  
Letterkenny Youth and Family Service  
Donegal County Childcare Committee  
Refugee Resettlement Programme

### **Outcome 2: Are achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development**

#### **2. Education and Learning Subcommittee:**

Donegal Education Training Board  
Donegal County Childcare Committee  
Tess  
County Library Service  
Lifestart Services Services  
Donegal Local Development CLG  
Inishowen Development Partnership  
School Completion Programme  
National Educational Psychology Service  
Family Resource Centre Network  
Refugee Resettlement Programme  
Donegal Traveller Project

### **Outcome 3: Are safe and protected from harm**

#### **3. Safe and Secure Subcommittee:**

An Garda Síochána  
Tusla  
Court Services  
Disability Services Health Service Executive  
Donegal Sports Partnership  
Donegal Domestic Violence Service  
Donegal Womens Centre  
Family Resource Centre Network  
Donegal Youth Service  
Donegal ETB  
Alcohol Forum  
Northwest Regional Drug and Alcohol Taskforce  
Children First Health Service Executive  
Probation Service  
Rape Crisis Centre  
Foróige  
Letterkenny IPAS Centre

### **Outcome 4: Have economic security and opportunity**

#### **4. Economic Wellbeing and Disability Equality Subcommittee:**

Donegal County Council  
Inishowen Development Partnership  
Donegal Youth Service  
Family Resource Centre Network  
Donegal Travellers Project



Donegal Local Development CLG  
Tusla  
Donegal County Childcare Committee  
School Completion Programme  
Disability Services Health Service Executive  
Bluestack Special Needs Foundation  
Donegal Down Syndrome  
Spraoi agus Sport  
Children First, Health Service Executive  
Donegal County Childcare Committee

**Transformational Goals:**

**5. Change Management Subcommittee**

Donegal County Council  
Foróige  
Tusla  
Garda Síochána  
Health Service Executive  
Údarás na Gaeltachta  
Family Resource Centre Network  
Donegal Education Training Board

**6. ParentHub Donegal Subcommittee**

Families Matter  
Lifestart Services Services CLG  
Springboard Family Support Service  
Family Resource Centre Network  
Health Service Executive  
Donegal County Childcare Committee  
Tír Boghaine Teo  
Tusla  
Inishowen Development Partnership  
Foróige  
Donegal Local Development CLG  
Letterkenny Youth and Family Services  
HSE  
Donegal Youth Service  
Spraoi agus Sport  
Home School Liaison Service

### Appendix 3: Data Sources and Reference Documents

<b>Data Sources:</b>	
CSO Census 2016	
Donegal County Council	
Tusla The Child and Family Agency	
Health Service Executive	
An Garda Síochána	
Donegal Educational Training Board	
Inishowen Development Partnership	
Donegal Local Development CLG	
Donegal County Childcare Committee	
Donegal Domestic Violence service	
Donegal Child and Family Support Networks (X5) - Youth Support Planning Consultation 2019	
Jigsaw Donegal	
Tusla Education Welfare Donegal	
Donegal Youth Council Agenda	
<b>Reference Documents</b>	
Tusla Donegal Market Position Statement	
Donegal Local Economic and Community Action Plan (LECP)	
Connecting for Life Donegal Preventing Suicide together 2015 -2020	
Better Outcomes Brighter Futures, National policy framework. DCYA 2014-2020	
Blueprint for the Development of Children and Young People's Services committees, 2015	
Shared Visions Next Steps 2019 - 2024	
State of our Nations Children Ireland 2018	
National Strategy Children and Young People's Participation in Decision Making 2015-20	
Young Lives in Ireland, National Suicide Research Foundation 2017	
My World Study 2, National Centre for Youth Mental Health, UCD School Psychology 2018	
Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery, A health led response to Drug and Alcohol Use in Ireland 2017-25,	
Healthy Ireland A framework for improved Health and Wellbeing 2013 -2015	
A Healthy Weight for Ireland, Obesity Policy and Action Plan 2016-2025	
Get Ireland Active, National Physical activity Plan for Ireland	
National Sexual Health Strategy DoH, 2015-2020	
National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021DJE	
Healthy Lifestyles A Consultation with Children and Young People 2016 DoH, DCYA	
Tackling Youth Crime – Youth Justice Action Plan, DJE, IYJS, DCYA 2014-2018	
Understanding and Managing Sexualised Behaviour in Children and Adolescents, a Guide for Parents and Carers, Kieran Mc Grath, The CARI Foundation, 2010	
How we see it, Report of a survey on Young People's Body Image, Dail na nÓg, 2012	
HBSC Ireland 2018: Short Report: Health and risk behaviour among School children in Donegal.	
The LGBTI Ireland Report: National study of the mental health and wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and Intersex people in Ireland. Dublin, GLEN and BelongTo, 2016	
Eurostat data release 'Education, employment, both or neither? What are young people doing in the EU? <a href="http://www.ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents">www.ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents</a> 2016	
Comprehensive Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities 2015-2024 Government of Ireland	
National Aftercare Policy for Alternative Care, Tusla 2016	
The RCGP/NSPCC Safeguarding Children Toolkit for General Practice	
Report Card 2019, Is Government keeping its promises to Children? Children's Right Alliance 2019	

## Appendix 4: Donegal CYPSC Plan 2021-2023 Consultation Report 2020 Summary

A detailed report on the online consultation surveys is available from the Donegal CYPSC Co-ordinator. [Link to Report](#)

A summary of what the consultations revealed is presented below by National Outcome area:

### Outcome 1 Active and healthy, physical and mental wellbeing

- There are a lot of positive aspects to being young in Donegal particularly in relation to connection to people and place. There is good participation in a range of youth services. Most young people and parents surveyed indicated that they had access to healthy food every day. Most young people felt they had a caring adult that they could tell anything to. 80% of young people felt that they could get enough physical activity every day.
- Almost half of young people and just over half of parents indicated that harmful substances are easy to access in their area. There is concern among key agencies in relation to increased cocaine use.
- Mental health was one of the top three types of information that both young people and parents said was important to them.
- School, social media and friends were reported by young people as their main sources of information. For parents it was social media, leaflets in local centres and family/friends. 60% of young people and 63% of parents said they had access to good quality wifi at home. 58% of parents had heard of the Donegal Parent's Hub, under half of whom had ever used its website or social media pages.
- Young people reported a wide range of impacts that Covid-19 has had on their mental health.

### Outcome 2 Achieving full potential in learning and development

- 77% of young people who responded to the consultation indicated that they have access to quality education supports. 76% of parents indicated that their children have access to quality education supports. School was the second most popular place that young people sourced information on services in the county.
- One third of parents consulted indicated that they took part regularly in school parent's associations/meetings/events.
- Information on Education ranked first in order of importance for both young people and parents.
- Covid-19 has had a significant impact on young people's experience of education and managing schooling at home was a source of stress for both parents and young people.

### Outcome 3 Safe and protected from harm

- 64% of young people consulted reported that they have safe public places where they can hang out. 92% of parents reported that where they live is a safe place to raise children.
- Issues of safety raised by agencies working with children and young people included the impact of domestic violence on children, online safety and understanding safety in health behaviours and relationships.
- Covid-19 has highlighted a range of issues in relation to many aspects of safety – in the home, online, in the community - that will need to be explored further.

#### Outcome 4 Economic security and opportunity

- Only 20% of parents and 36% of young people consulted felt that there were enough training and employment opportunities in their area.
- Issues identified by agencies consulted included improvement in pathways and options to education, training and employment as well as diversity training for all stakeholders including the business community. The need for specific employment and training support for people with disability was identified.
- Language can be a barrier to economic security and opportunity for people for whom English is not their first language.

#### Outcome 5 Connected, respected and contributing to their world

- Social Inclusion and diversity is a priority issue for children and young people's services in Donegal.
- Not having English as a first language can be a barrier to participation within the community. The amount and duration of Resettlement support is inadequate to meet the level of need.
- The geography of Donegal contributes to rural isolation with issues of transport, infrastructure and facilities is a recurring theme across all outcome areas. Covid-19 has added to the issues of isolation. Facilities and activities for children and young people is a priority issue for children, young people, parents and services.
- Children, young people and parents indicated experience of discrimination in a variety of areas. 69% of young people and 74% of parents reported feeling valued and respected as a person. 64% of young people and 80% of parents reported feeling that they make a positive contribution to the world.

Further development of participation structures and processes are needed particularly for children, young people and parents experiencing exclusion.

### Appendix 5: Health Behaviors in School-aged Children (HBSC) Report 2018, Short Report for Donegal

#### FOCUS OF THIS REPORT

This short report presents indicators of health and well-being in young people from Donegal, compared to the same findings from other counties of Republic of Ireland (ROI). The indicators included in this analysis are the same as those used in the *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, 2014-2020* (DCYA, 2017) and the *State of the Nation's Children* (DCYA, 2016) national frameworks.

#### METHOD

The data are presented in the same format as in the HBSC 2018 Ireland National Report (Költő et al. 2020), overall and in age group breakdown. Children aged between 10-17 years and providing valid gender response were included in this analysis. Within tables showing overall findings and those broken down to age groups, prevalence data are presented for young people from Donegal ( $n = 414$ , 3.52%) compared to national data, Donegal included ( $n = 11,758$ ). In interpreting the data presented below, it is important to recognise that the sample was drawn to be representative at a national level and not a county level.<sup>46</sup>

This report can be accessed in full by following the link below.

<sup>46</sup><https://aran.library.nuigalway.ie/bitstream/handle/10379/16093/HBSC%20Ireland%20Donegal%20Short%20Report%20-%20edited%20title.pdf?sequence=9&isAllowed=y>

## Appendix 6: Reports from the Youth Support Planning Consultation with five Child and Family Support Networks 2019

### 1. CFSN South Donegal Area – Youth Support Planning Report 2019

*(Bundoran, Ballyshannon, Laghey, Pettigo, Donegal Town, Bruckless, Dunkineely, Glenties, Ardara, Killybegs, Carrick)*

#### What Youth Work provision is working well in South Donegal CFSN Area?

South Donegal identified as having quite strong availability of youth service provision in number of key areas but with some key gaps

- Foróige Volunteer Led Groups in Donegal Town, Bundoran, Ballyshannon, Mountcharles and Frosses
- Centre based Youth Work provision with funded staff – Deck Donegal, Youth Centre Killybegs, Neighbourhood Youth Project Ballyshannon
- Bluestack Youth Club for additional needs
- The Youth Hub Glenties identified as great facility
- 3 LGBTIQ+ Groups (Glenties, Ballyshannon, Killybegs)
- Young Carers Donegal town
- Tir Boghaine (10-12 year olds school programmes)
- Foróige Drugs Project and Garda Youth Diversion Project
- Donegal Youth Service Project – Pettigo
- Availability of REACH project worker via Alcohol Forum (those affected by Parental Alcohol)

#### Where are the key gaps for Youth Work provision in South Donegal CFSN area?

- Still depending on area you live as to whether you have access to support or not
- Glenties / Ardara area identified as key gap geographically in terms of provision of funded support for 10 years +
- Youthreach in Ballyshannon but difficult to access support for those 15+ who are dropping out of education in Killybegs and surrounding areas
- Lack of provision of additional early intervention supports for those at risk of dropping out of formal education at secondary level
- Engaging young people 15-18 identified as gap in certain areas i.e Pettigo

#### What are the challenges and issues presenting for young people in these areas which need to be addressed by Youth Work providers?

- Rural isolation and lack of available transport due to wide geographical spread in South Donegal CFSN area
- Social media a huge issue with children accessing and sharing of inappropriate content on internet and social media
- Lack of awareness of issues around sexual consent identified via social work referrals
- Young people experiencing high levels of anxiety and poor mental health
- Lack of supports for young people with autism in area outside of Bluestack SNF
- Poor school attendance an ongoing issue

- Safe socialising identified as key issue – teenage discos presenting issues on ongoing basis

#### What type of Youth Work Supports do we need operating in these areas?

- Need for more outreach youth workers operating across all areas of CFSN on group and 1-2-1 basis
- Need to support young people in their community where school refusal an issue
- Key geographical Need for centre and outreach funded youth worker in Glenties / Ardara area
- Programmes for young people on consent and managing online behaviour

1 to 1 support to support for young people with mental health issues at early intervention level (10-15) as Jigsaw offers support to 15+ (Unsure of outreach base exists currently for Jigsaw in South Donegal area- to explore for next CFSN)

## 2. CFSN Donegal South Central area - Youth Support Planning Consultation Report 2019

#### What are the challenges and issues (needs) facing young people in the South Central network area?

- Access and availability of youth supports / lack of structured youth services
- Social isolation big issue due to nature of geography of area (apathy and boredom leading to high risk-taking behaviours such as high-level alcohol and drug abuse) Lot of families in this area living in cycle of poverty and leads to difficult family backgrounds
- Lack of understanding of dangers of Internet use in particular Social Media and ease of access – Children and YP
- Gaming addition
- High anxiety levels being reported
- Self harming
- Bullying
- Body Image issues for both young females and males
- Legal highs such as SPICE easily accessible
- Food poverty a huge issue in South Central area
- Social amenities in area too expensive for young people
- Impact of Brexit on border areas cause a lot of confusion and anxiety for young people and parents

In addition to issues and challenges facing all young people, please identify additional issues and challenges within the following categories, if appropriate:

Age Groups	Categories (e.g. YP as carers, LGBT, Travellers, etc.)	Specific Geographical Areas
16+ less likely to engage in youth provision 5-10 not catered for outside of sport	Syrian Families Roma Community Sri Lanka and Pakistanian families LGBT Young Carers Young people in transition from care Children with Special needs Young women	Lifford and around border areas (lot of different families from different countries now living in area but not integrating – experiencing poverty and isolation) Wide areas where no youth service provision available including Newtoncunningham, Ballindrait / Raphoe / Killygordon

**What type of youth work supports do we need to have in place to respond to those presenting needs?**

- A professionally trained youth worker with a wide geographical spread and a developmental role with a focus on social and emotional wellbeing and building resilience
- Youth work supports that are structured, sustainable and accessible given nature of geographical nature of South Central / Finn Valley area
- A drop in centre / hub which is recognised as youth space for the area
- There is no targeted youth provision in this area for non-nationals

**What youth work currently exists for young people in this Network area? (Please include volunteer youth clubs, facilities/premises available, etc.)**

- Planet Youth building in Ballybofey (houses DYS Peace and IFI funded staff and does have volunteer led Youth Club)
- Strive Peace Funded project in Lifford and Castlefin (based in Lifford Clonleigh Resource Centre and funded until 2021)
- Reactiv8 – IFI funded until 2 May 2020
- Youthsapce – Peace 4 funded until Dec 21
- Foróige office in Ballybofey
- Foróige Teen Parent Support Programme based in Ballybofey and covers areas within SC
- Foróige Integrated youth work model working directly with Social work
- Foróige Garda Youth Diversion Project Worker based in Raphoe
- Foróige Big Brother Big Sister worker based in Ballybofey
- Heroes – Children with Autism (18 month programme to Jan 21 for Lifford / Killygordon / Finn Valley area)
- Development Worker through St Johnstons and Carrigans FRC running some youth work based programmes and initiatives
- LGBT Breakout group meets in Ballybofey

**What are the key gaps in provision in this Network area?**

- Lot of Peace and IFI funded provision focusing on older provision but no mainstream youth work provision focused on this area
- Too heavily reliant on volunteer led youth clubs
- Peace and other temporary funding masking huge issue in relation to mainstream funded youth work provision in the area
- No youth work provision in area will work without significant transport budget / transport links and this is something difficult to explain at national level
- Provision may need to be mobile i.e mobile unit available to go from area to area
- Supports for young people with special needs – e.g Autism

**3. CFSN North Central Area - Youth Support Planning Consultation Report 2019**

**What are the challenges and issues (needs) facing young people in the North Central Network area?**

- Mental Health/Anxiety/Suicide
- Alcohol/ Drug Misuse
- Homelessness
- Young Carers

Social Awkwardness, lack of communication skills, exam pressures, stress, anxiety, study skills, drug and alcohol, poverty, rural isolation, transport, social media/media, challenges to achieve, lack of employment particularly in Letterkenny

- Anxiety/Poor Mental Health
- Drugs/Alcohol
- Poverty
- Family Dynamics
- Parenting
- Technology
- Lack of Resilience
- Gangs (Letterkenny)-violent crime/criminality
- Lack of support for over 16s to access educational programmes
- Secure friendships
- Attachment issues
- Inability to make friendships
- School Refusal
- Homelessness
- Sexualised behaviour-sharing images online
- Exposure to pornographic material
- Consent issues re: sexual behaviour
- LGBT victimised-recent attack on young man in LK
- Misuse of prescription medication by parents
- Young people heading to underage discos not safe
- Easy access to drugs for young people in LK

**In addition to issues and challenges facing all young people, please identify additional issues and challenges within the following categories, if appropriate:**

Age Groups	Categories (e.g. YP as carers, LGBT, Travellers, etc.)	Specific Geographical Areas
12-24	Professionals need to ask if there is a young carer in the family	All parts of the Network area
Youth Provision in rural areas	For above categories and universal	Rural
Under 18 Mental Health in crisis	Mental health crisis intervention Out of hours Long waiting lists	All
		Transport
		Rural isolation
	Employment-having age restrictions	
Children as young as 6 years now have poor mental health Other issues cited 10years + Bullying	Roma Traveller Community (often these families are reluctant to access youth /other supports)	Letterkenny Countywide issues Other young people travelling into Letterkenny to access support services
Early school leavers from 14years and up. Where young person requires a SNA in school it is very difficult to get them access to Summer camps as they would need additional support	Lack of supports for young people with autism or support to their families -respite	Lack of any supports for Teens in Carrigart, Kilmacrennan, Milford, Kerrykeel and greater Fanad area.



**What type of youth work supports do we need to have in place to respond to those presenting needs?**

- One Young Carers Project 1 day per week worker plus CE Scheme hours is not sufficient
- Jigsaw, Out of Hours, On the ground Workers, Street Work
- Community service-LYFS, Loft, FRCs, Integrated Youth Project
- There are enough supports within the North Central area. DYS and Foróige have great programmes available. They could be geographically spread better
- Youth Outreach
- Presence locally in each community of a safe space
- Support for whole family not just for the young person
- Increase staffing within CAMHS
- Wrap around service required for young people
- Supports for teens who have a learning/physical sensory disability
- Drop ins in FRCs or Community Centres in more rural areas
- Counsellors in schools

**What youth work currently exists for young people in this Network area? (Please include volunteer youth clubs, facilities/premises available, etc.)**

- LYFS
- Donegal Youth Service
- Foróige
- FRC
- Sports Clubs
- MACE
- Community Sector

School Completion, Garda Diversion Programme, Peace Programmes, Mevagh FRC-Junior Youth 7-12yrs/ Senior Youth 13-17yrs

DTP, Drama Project in Pastoral Centre, Youth Clubs, Sports Clubs, Summer Camps, Community Centres, Daybreak, Youthscape, Loft, DAP, MAP

YouthTalk, Reach Project, Youth Information Centre, Jigsaw

**What are the key gaps in provision in this Network area?**

- Mental Health Crises
- Alcohol / Drug Misuse
- Young Carers Support Key Worker Needed
- LGBT Support
- Street Work after hours service
- Help with technology

Gaps around Milford area where there are no services available other than GAA Clubs

Lack of localised support services outside of Letterkenny. People and young people need to feel connected to their local community

Lack of support for young people with complex mental health difficulties

Open up school premises as After school centres.

#### 4. CFSN North West Area - Youth Support Planning Consultation Report - 2019

**What are the challenges and issues (needs) facing young people in the North West Network area?**

- Mental health
- Social isolation in a general sense and created by the 'retreat into bedrooms and screens'
- Alcohol and drugs
- Social media
- Lack of transport
- Individualisation of society / challenge in organising something collective that will attract young people – 'collective' deficit creates a challenge in connecting
- Absence of play / restricted access to collective play / exercise
- Reality v fantasy – bloggers and other influencers creating a distorted reality
- Disconnect between school and achievement and in what young people define as 'success'
- Gaming addiction
- Ease of access to porn
- Body image / social media pressure / perceptions of social acceptance / criticisms of others has moved to a new level / challenge in being resilient
- Bullying takes place 24 / 7
- Loss of collective games
- Over dependence on parents
- Children are experiencing anxiety at a young age and this age is decreasing all the time
- Parental anxiety – feeding into anxiety of YP
- Decreased social skills
- Additional supports for YP with complex needs
- Isolation – fathers immigrating
- Target Categories
- 15-20 year olds – no options therefore going to pubs

**In addition to issues and challenges facing all young people, please identify additional issues and challenges within the following categories, if appropriate:**

Age Groups	Categories (e.g. YP as carers, LGBT, Travellers, etc.)	Specific Geographical Areas
	LGBT /preferable access to L'kenney rather than locally Young carers Bullying and behavioural Issues YP with additional needs	Tory Dunfanaghy Cresslough Falcarragh (needs more) Derrybeg (being planned)

**What type of youth work supports do we need to have in place to respond to those presenting needs?**

- Lack of professional youth work supports with time to resource and organise planned activities
- Address the expectations / what is actually possible with volunteer youth workers
- Experience and expertise needed (which volunteers may not have as do not have same levels of training and also volunteers may be parents' friends, neighbours, etc, so not suited to provide advice / discussions on some topics), e.g. LGBT issues
- Holistic youth work support combining individual one-to-one support with group work set in a framework of family support / outreach
- Combine generic and specialised / universal and targeted / group and one-to-one

- Supports to parents / volunteers in existing clubs
- Long term planning approach
- Support the generic provision – make it stronger
- Set up a support service between youth services and Tusla to support wide range of youth related work Community action
- Get existing youth work providers in NW area to bring YP together to an event each month across the three HSE area

**What youth work currently exists for young people in this Network area? (Please include volunteer youth clubs, facilities/premises available, etc.)**

- Magheraroarty Youth club and youth cafe
- Óige le Chéile youth work (via Pobail le Chéile CDP) Falcarragh
- Falcarragh Coderdojo (via Pobail le Chéile CDP in PCC school and Wed in community)
- Friday YouthHouse /Teach na nÓg at Garradh Colmchile
- Youth Nights at Ionad Naomh Fionnán
- Garda Youth Diversion project – Flacarragh
- Crannóg Gweedore
- Comhaltas
- Rowing / GAA / golf
- Marching bands
- Clubs in Burtonport, Magheraroarty, Cinn Caisle, Rannafest Ionad Naomh Phádraig, Maghera, Finntown, Tory
- Rosses NYP (Foróige)
- BBBS Programme (Foróige)
- Integrated Youth Projects (Foróige)
- Youth Drugs and Alcohol Project (Foróige)
- Club Development Worker (Foróige)
- Garda Youth Diversion Project (Foróige)

**What are the key gaps in provision in this Network area?**

- Youth workers – to organise planned activities and provide support to existing leaders
- Counselling
- Additional and special needs – YP on the autism spectrum
- Spaces – 15-17 year olds – social outlets
- Lack of youth work qualifications / courses
- Challenge of youth work who speaks Irish / can deliver programmes through Irish
- Schools based youth worker
- Drop in /one to one support
- Youth worker to work in purpose built youth centre in Magheraroarty (designed and built by and for young people) - - left legacy for next generation of YP. One also being built in Derrybeg
- Big challenge for volunteer led youth work

## 5. Inishowen Family Action Network Youth Support Planning Consultation Report - 2019

### What are the challenges and issues (needs) facing young people in the IFAN area?

- Rural Isolation / Transport / Anxiety / Poor Mental health
- Need for universal Provision as mostly targeted currently
- Poverty having big impact on families being able to afford activities for CYP
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse – (Cannabis and SPICE – legal high)
- Lack of appropriate youth friendly safe spaces for young people
- High unemployment in area leading to families in economic difficulty
- Constantly need to travel to Letterkenny / Derry to access statutory services and other supports
- Waiting list for statutory services impacting on young people also

### In addition to issues and challenges facing all young people, please identify additional issues and challenges within the following categories, if appropriate:

Age Groups	Categories (e.g. YP as carers, LGBT, Travellers, etc.)	Specific Geographical Areas
15+ Transitions post 18 Lack of Family Supports for Parents dealing with issues	Young Carers LGBT Young Immigrant / Refugees ASD / ADHD Young Travellers in Buncrana area Disabilities	Focus needed on hubs in main 3 towns – Carndonagh, Merville and Buncrana

### What type of youth work supports do we need to have in place to respond to those presenting needs?

- Drop In Spaces / Multifunctional Youth Hubs in key areas such as Buncrana and Carndonagh where young people can find a sense of ownership and trained professional staff for support
- Full Time mainstreamed youth services operating in these areas
- Targeted youth provision for older young people 16+
- Listening Ear Service needed for young people
- Focus on Mental health and wellbeing
- Focus on activities for those not into sport i.e Arts and Crafts, Creative activities, mindfulness
- Lack of Youth Information service for young people also
- Intergenerational work needed encouraging respect between different generations

### What youth work currently exists for young people in this Network area? (Please include volunteer youth clubs, facilities/premises available, etc.)

- Foróige Youth Clubs in Carndonagh, Merville, Drumfries, Buncrana
- DYS Volunteer led youth clubs in Muff, Glengad, Malin Head, St Brigids, Merville, Cockhill, Buncrana and SONAS
- Summer programmes available via School Completion Programme
- Jigsaw has outreach in Buncrana and Carn but appointment based 1-2-1 support
- Scouts in Buncrana and Carndonagh

- FRC Merville has focus on Youth Work through Development worker and has developed SHOPFRONT project through Mental Health Service Reform Funding and Peace Bytes (Peace Funded) project
- Lifeline Child Counselling Service
- Pastoral Centre Child Counselling Service (1 day per week)
- Spraoi and Sport in Carndonagh have good facility available
- CHANCE Project (Buncrana – Peace Funded)
- IDP Youth Development Officer
- 

**What are the key gaps in provision in this Network area?**

- Physical infrastructure of generic youth work supports needs to be developed
- No paid full time youth workers operating from area outside of Integrated Youth Work (too much focus on satellite supports from towns such as Letterkenny)
- Easily accessible safe youth spaces / hubs for young people
- Fire in Plaza in Buncrana where youth space existed has left gap and not sure if being replaced

## Appendix 7: Donegal Local Economic Community Plan 2016-2021 Key Priorities

### Goal 4:

Extract from Local Economic and Community Plan prepared by Local Community Development Committee in Donegal. Plan adopted by Donegal County Council in January 2016

#### Goal 4- To Promote Sustainable, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

Objective	Action Ref	Action
To work towards the 5 National Outcomes for Children as set Out in the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020.	4.13.1.	To increase resources and opportunities for children and young people to participate in sport and physical activity as a resource to improve health and wellbeing, encourage community participation and to contribute to Personal Development.
	4.13.2.	To promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people through the implementation of Road Safety Authority educational resources as well as Farm and Water Safety in all educational settings.
	4.13.3.	To identify, prioritise and implement engineering improvement measures to improve the safety of the school journey.
	4.13.4.	To proof relevant policies in the context of child poverty, disadvantage and equity.
	4.13.5.	To support community based activities for children and families living in poverty or experiencing social exclusion.
	4.13.6.	To provide life-long learning opportunities for children and young people throughout the County.
	4.13.7.	To support and seek resources for the provision of personal development, learning programmes and social initiatives for people living within disadvantaged communities and target groups.
	4.13.8.	To ensure all children have access to recreational and social activity.
	4.13.9.	To support and strengthen assistance to community efforts to develop services for young Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender young people and young adults throughout the County.
	4.13.10.	To support the development of 'Child and Family Support Networks' across County Donegal which aim to connect families with sources of support in their networks.
	4.13.11.	To support the development of safe spaces for young people and Children.
	4.13.12.	To support and promote youth work to ensure young people feel connected to their communities and remain a sustainable asset in the community.
	4.13.13.	All agencies, statutory bodies and community organisations to collaborate to maximise and direct resources available for the welfare and protection of children and young people in greatest need.
	4.13.14.	To seek resources for and further improve existing partnerships and initiatives aiming to improve the capacity of parents, carers and families to support healthier choices for their children and themselves.
	4.13.15.	To develop and promote the library service as a resource for children and young people and to work in collaboration with children and young people and with related organisations to ensure children and young people achieve their full potential in learning and development.
	4.13.16.	To improve the lives of young people in Donegal and enable young people to identify issues, develop projects and participate in decision making.
	4.13.17.	To work in partnership to ensure the continued development of early intervention mental health services for young people in Donegal.